

day, May 3, 1998
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
LOS ANGELES (AP) — They are the beautiful people, according to the magazine People. It is in the eyes of the beholder. Hollywood's heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio, unsupervised, is right up there in the world's 50 most beautiful people, the magazine decided. He had the beauty stakes of Prince William, son of the Prince and Diana, and a line to the three British Prime Ministers, Tony Blair, John Major and Bill Clinton. Indian film star Shah Rukh Khan, tennis player Andre Agassi, and boxer Mike Tyson are also in the top 50. The magazine's annual list of the world's most beautiful people is a tradition that began in 1975. The magazine's annual list of the world's most beautiful people is a tradition that began in 1975. The magazine's annual list of the world's most beautiful people is a tradition that began in 1975.

Hizbollah attacks SLA outpost

RASHAYA (AP) — Hizbollah fighters on Sunday attacked Israeli-allied militiamen in southern Lebanon with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, and the Israelis retaliated with artillery fire, Lebanese security officials said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the attack by the guerrillas on the Zoummaraya outpost just inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the officials said. Israel responded shortly after the 9 a.m. with artillery fire on suspected guerrilla targets near the villages of Maidoun and Ein El Tineh southeast of Zoummaraya, they said. There were no reports on casualties or damage from the shelling. The officials spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Turk troops kill 14 more Kurd guerrillas

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Elite troops killed 14 Kurdish guerrillas Sunday, increasing the number of rebel casualties to 81 in operations in the rugged southeastern region, officials said. Some 39,500 troops aided by 3,000 pro-government village guards have been searching for the rebels in six southeastern provinces since April 23. Most of Sunday's casualties occurred in fighting on Mount Cudi in Sirnak province bordering Iraq, the regional governor's office announced. Three soldiers were reported killed by the guerrillas so far. The military typically steps up its fight against the guerrillas in spring, taking advantage of the milder weather. Warplanes and attack helicopters have also been taking part in the operation, described as the biggest since the Kurdish insurgents launched a guerrilla war for autonomy in the region in 1984.

Volume 23 Number 6829

AMMAN MONDAY, MAY 4, 1998, MUHARRAM 8, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

King: Opposition parties should resort to dialogue

'To have an absolute opposition is unjustified'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday urged the opposition to resort to dialogue with the government rather than being always opposed to its policies.

Addressing a ceremony commemorating the 45th anniversary of His Majesty's assumption of the constitutional powers, the King said that the minority should succumb to the will of the majority.

"With all due respect, a new term has prevailed recently, the so called opposition parties. I do not think that this is right, it needs to be corrected," the King said.

"Opposition could be for a certain stand or a particular policy, even for a certain incident. But to have an absolute opposition is a matter, in my opinion, that is unacceptable and unjustified," the King told ministers, lawmakers, foreign diplomats and community leaders.

"The language of dialogue should prevail. We should talk and talk about all issues until we agree on a particular conclusion," the King said at the Palace of Culture, addressing the ceremony which was also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



His Majesty King Hussein, HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali arrive at the Palace of Culture Sunday to attend a festival marking the anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers. (Photo by Yousef Allan)

ness Crown Prince Hassan. The King said that he respected opposition to a particular issue, but that at the end of the day, the majority should prevail and "should be respected as well."

The King said that opposition and the government should sit together to find out "what are the loopholes, the

shortcomings and how we could overcome them."

The King said he would be pleased to visit the professional associations and meet with their leaders. The head of the Engineers Association, Husni Abu Ghaidah, an Islamist, invited the King to visit the professional unions building and to meet with union lead-

ers. "With all pleasure, I accept this honourable invitation that I have just received from the heads of the association," the King said.

"In our talks with the professional unions leaders, the discussion will be frank," the King said.

The King called for the

reform of the judiciary to avoid what he described as "shortcomings and loopholes."

"I believe that there are loopholes, shortcomings and defaults which need reform to enable the judiciary to reach the point which we all wish," the King said.

Referring to the Kingdom's endeavours to reduce the suffering of the Iraqi people, the King said that he will continue his efforts until the sanctions on Iraq are eased and lifted.

The King said that the problem of the seven-year-old sanctions against Iraq is the major issue on Jordan's foreign agenda.

"We have the duty to work on the political field with our utmost energy and effort to bring an end to their sufferings and until a new dawn emerges," the King added.

He said that Jordan will continue its path of peace until a "comprehensive and just peace" is reached.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and former prime ministers Zaid Al Rifai and Ahmad Lawzi also delivered speeches during the three-hour festival.

The event was also attended by senior army, police and security officials.

Crown Prince: Middle East security must address interests of all states

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman Sunday following a brief visit to Turkey where he discussed with Turkish officials efforts for giving impetus to the Middle East peace process.

In an address to a conference by the New Atlantic Initiative, Prince Hassan said that peace and security in the region should be based on the principle of respecting the rights of all parties, stressing the importance of involving all countries in the region in drafting the peace formula.

Prince Hassan urged the participants at the conference, which discussed Atlantic nations' contributions towards Middle East peace and security, to deal with the question of security in its widest perspective, embodying social and economic security in a manner that would take into consideration the interests and the rights of all sides.

Prince Hassan said that the participation of all countries in the region is a basic pre-requisite to ensure the success of any dialogue or effort aimed at enhancing regional security and stability, warning against dealing with the region from the view point of safeguarding the interests of certain parties. He said that the overwhelming public opinion in the Middle East believes that these certain parties view the region only from the perspective of ensuring Israel's security, oil and the sale of weapons.

He told the conference that it is a basic requirement for Muslims to deal with attempts on the part of some people to distort Islam by eliminating

misconceptions about the faith and working towards constructing peace based on correct and sound concepts.

The Crown Prince told the audience, which included former Turkish President Kanan Evren and politicians and intellectuals from Turkey and other parts of the world, that it is wrong to deal with the question of security on the basis of a misconception that Israel is at the centre because security should be comprehensive since it is the right of all countries.

Prince Hassan criticised the idea of "selectivity" in dealing with Middle East problems, laying stress on the importance of "comprehensiveness" in handling this issue, citing as an example the question of mass destruction weapons, which he said should be tackled through one criteria and non-selectivity.

Prince Hassan pointed out that violence in many cases is the result of desperate policies, stressing the importance of differentiating between violence resulting from injustice and that resulting from terrorism.

He said these issues should be tackled at their roots through removing despair and injustice, stressing that all countries have a duty to take part in combating terrorism.

On the question of whether unity of the Atlantic countries can contribute to building security in the Middle East, Prince Hassan said it was possible to benefit from the Atlantic nations' approach towards building a regional mechanism for settling disputes in a manner agreed on

by all concerned countries without any discrimination.

Earlier in Ankara, the Crown Prince and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel stressed at their meeting the need for stimulating efforts to overcome obstacles that still impede the peace process and to ensure the success of the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in London Monday, warning that the failure of that meeting would have adverse consequences on the region.

Prince Hassan noted the European Union's understanding of the Arab stand vis-a-vis the peace process while President Demirel emphasised his country's determination to pursue contacts with the United States and Israel to urge them to work towards giving momentum to the peace process.

Both the Crown Prince and the Turkish president called for ending the human suffering in Iraq and for a clear criteria in assessing the extent of Iraq's commitment to the implementation of U.N. resolutions and for the lifting of sanctions imposed on the Arab country.

Prince Hassan who was accompanied on his visit by Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani was met at the airport upon his return by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Fayez Tarawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ben Zeid and other officials along with the Turkish ambassador to Jordan.

Arafat, Netanyahu leave for London

'Netanyahu was not given mandate to make a compromise in London'

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat flew to London for crucial peace talks involving Israel, determined to accept a U.S. compromise after last-minute consultations with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Sunday.

"It is clear that the Palestinians still confirm acceptance of the American ideas," Mr. Musa told reporters after the meeting at the Inhiadiya presidential palace in the northern suburbs of Cairo.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet separately in London on Monday with U.S. Secretary Madeleine Albright to discuss a U.S. proposal for Israel to pull out of 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Israel is opposed to withdrawing from more than nine per cent of the West Bank while the Palestinians had insisted that the Jewish state hand over 30-40 per cent of the West Bank.

"It will be utterly impossible for the talks in London to succeed" if Israel fails to accept the U.S. offer, Mr. Musa said.

"Now, what is on the table as we understand it, is that both Palestinians and Israelis (must) accept the U.S. offer or not accept it. It is not to negotiate," Mr. Musa said.

Also on Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu left for peace talks in London with no mandate to accept U.S. and Palestinian demands on the key issue of overriding Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank, his spokesman said.

An Israeli spokesman said

Mr. Netanyahu would continue to reject the 13 per cent figure on grounds a withdrawal of this scope would endanger vital Israeli interests.

"Netanyahu has not been given a mandate by his cabinet to decide any troop withdrawal greater than that already approved," said David Bar-Ilan, the prime minister's media advisor.

He was referring to a cabinet decision several months ago approving a single pull-back from around nine per cent of the West Bank with all future withdrawals postponed until the two sides reach a final peace deal.

Rather than focusing on the land issue, Mr. Bar-Ilan said Israel would tackle less sensitive issues left over from interim accords.

"We think that progress can be achieved on the issues of opening the Palestinian airport and an industrial zone in the Gaza Strip because these projects can advance the peace process," Mr. Bar-Ilan told AFP.

Palestinian officials insist any progress must begin with an agreement on the troop

pullbacks.

Mr. Arafat reiterated before leaving early Sunday for Cairo that success on Monday "depends on how Netanyahu will deal with these issues, because as we know the problem is with him."

The Palestinians say they have made a major concession in accepting the U.S. compromise proposal for a 13 per cent pullback, far below the 40 per cent of the West Bank they say Israel should cede at this time, and will not budge further.

"Given Netanyahu's tough position, there are few hopes for success in London," said Palestinian Cabinet Minister Nabil Shaath.

The full Palestinian leadership warned over the weekend that failure in London "will mean a return to violence and chaos" in the entire region.

Clearly aware of such dangers, Washington has put intense pressure on Israel over the past week to accept its compromise package.

U.S. special Mideast envoy Dennis Ross held eight meetings with Mr. Netanyahu, compared to only three with

Mr. Arafat, in a clear indication Washington feels the ball is in Israel's court.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore, in Israel for its 50th jubilee celebrations last week, also met for several hours with Mr. Netanyahu, including an unscheduled two-hour encounter in the early hours of Sunday after Mr. Gore met with Mr. Arafat.

But the lobbying effort bore little fruit.

"At this point, [Albright] has no reason to think that we are in a position to bridge the gaps" between the two sides, U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said, warning of "grave dangers if we can't get [the peace talks] back on track."

Mr. Bar-Ilan brushed the U.S. concerns aside.

"Maybe Mrs. Albright was expecting some kind of breakthrough, but we prefer to proceed one step at a time," he said.

"If concrete progress is achieved in London, which is what we hope, there will doubtless be further meetings. But for that to happen Arafat will have to give us more than empty promises," he said.

Arab League slams Butler report on Iraq

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League on Sunday criticised chief U.N. arms inspector Richard Butler for a report which contributed to the renewal of sanctions on Iraq, saying Baghdad complied with U.N. demands to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction.

"The Arab League considers that Iraq complied with the implementation of the U.N. Security Council (resolutions) and with the agreement signed in February with U.N. chief Kofi Annan," Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters here.

"It is clear that Kofi Annan supports the Iraqi position but, unfortunately, Richard Butler's report is not encouraging for the Security Council to reach an agreement with Iraq," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

The head of the 22-member pan-Arab organisation called anew on the U.N. to lift "as quickly as possible" the sanctions which it first imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Abdul Meguid's deputy for international political affairs, Mohammad Zakariya Ismail, charged meanwhile that the U.N. decision to maintain sanctions against Iraq was "part of a plot to erase Iraq from the Arab map, weaken the Arabs compared to Israel and render Israel the only military and political force in the region."

The U.N. Security Council renewed the sanctions against Iraq on April 27 after reviewing a report by Mr. Butler, who said that "virtually no progress" had been made over the past six months.

The sanctions can only be lifted when the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with Iraqi disarmament headed by Mr. Butler declares the country free of weapons of mass destruction.

Relatives leave for Kuwait to visit Jordanian detainees

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Family members of 14 Jordanian prisoners held in Kuwaiti jails since the 1990-91 Gulf war will leave for Kuwait City today to visit the inmates in a series of trips sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mu'in Qassis, spokesman at the ICRC office in Amman, said the 26 Jordanians, mainly spouses and children, will visit Kuwait for three days to meet the detainees, including one woman.

Under the Kuwaiti courts' rulings, crimes of "collabo-

The previously-organised trip comes days after Kuwait pardoned 13 Jordanian prisoners in a move officials said aimed at improving bilateral ties, strained by Jordan's perceived pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis which was sparked by Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Some 60 Jordanians were sentenced by Kuwaiti security courts for allegedly collaborating with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate, according to unofficial figures.

Under the Kuwaiti courts' rulings, crimes of "collabo-

ration" ranged from active participation in occupation operations to standard employment contracts with or contributions to Iraqi newspapers published in Kuwait during the occupation.

No official figures are available on how many Jordanians are still held in Kuwaiti jails.

"This is the fourth ICRC-sponsored visit since the end of the Gulf war," Mr. Qassis said of Monday's trip. "Through these trips, the ICRC has enabled 133

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq: Sanctions toll over \$140 billion

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has lost about \$140 billion as a result of U.N. trade sanctions which include a ban on its oil exports, Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said Sunday.

The sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, bar the export of all but limited amounts of oil worth \$2 billion each six months.

The United Nations permitted Iraq to pump partial amounts of oil to international markets in December 1996 to help it buy food, medicine and other supplies to its 22 million people.

"Iraq's economy has lost approximately \$140 billion. That means the economy lost goods, commodities, equipment and services which would have been imported by the oil money," Mr. Saleh told the Associated Press.

Independent experts have estimated that Iran has lost about \$115 billion from the

ban just in oil exports during the years of the embargo.

Iraq holds the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia. It was the world's second exporter of oil, also after Saudi Arabia, prior to the U.N. embargo under U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted after the Kuwait invasion. The sanctions will not be lifted until U.N. weapons inspectors certify that Iraq has eliminated all those weapons.

Mr. Saleh, a technocrat with a doctorate from Britain's Manchester University, said the sanctions have caused "great material loss" for the economy.

But the greatest loss is "the death of 1.5 million Iraqis, most of them children," said Mr. Saleh, maintaining that number have died due to lack of food and medicine caused by the embargo.

He said the United States hoped that the hardships

resulting from the sanctions will eventually change the government in Baghdad.

"It [Washington] wants to reap political ends from the suffering of the Iraqis. That will not happen," he said.

Despite Washington's attitude, Mr. Saleh said, Iraq has no intention of boycotting American firms. "We will go ahead with plans to buy goods and commodities from American companies," he said. He declined to give figures or names.

To further alleviate Iraq's sanctions-related suffering, the United Nations has given Iraq the chance to increase the value of its exports to \$5.2 billion from the current \$2 billion.

Mr. Saleh said he hoped Iraq will be able to boost value of oil exports up to \$4 billion in the next leg of the U.N. programme. He said Iraq needed at least that amount to meet its immediate needs.

Hamas militant receives four life sentences for involvement in killings

LOD (AFP) — An Israeli military court sentenced a Palestinian Islamist to four life prison sentences Sunday for involvement in attacks which killed nine people, court officials said.

Rayed Abu Hamdi, 22, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) from the West Bank city of Hebron, was notably convicted of shooting and killing an Israeli soldier, Sharon Edry, as he was being kidnapped by a Hamas squad in September 1996.

Hamdi was also found guilty of helping prepare the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe last year which killed three Israelis and involved in two drive-by shootings west of Jerusalem that left five Israeli civilians dead.

Upon hearing the sentence, Hamdi smiled and told reporters afterward that he had no regret for the attacks.

"Israelis have also killed civilians," Hamdi said in Hebrew.

One member of the three-judge panel wrote in a minority decision that Hamdi should have received the death sentence for his crimes.

But the majority chose four life sentences plus five years.

"These are some of the gravest and most horrible actions that have been brought before an Israeli court," wrote Judge Doron Feiles for the majority.

Hamdi was one of four surviving members of a Hamas squad based in the

West Bank town of Tsurif which Israeli police say killed 13 Israelis in a series of attacks in 1996 and 1997.

One member of the group died when the bomb he was apparently planning to leave in Tel Aviv's Apropos cafe blew up while he was still holding it.

The trial of two other members of the cell will begin on Wednesday and that of the fourth member will begin at the end of June, the court sources said.

Israel says U.S. rejected compromise on extradition of murder suspect

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. prosecutors have rejected a proposed compromise with Israel over a Jewish-American teenager wanted for murder in the United States, the Israeli state prosecutor told a Jerusalem court Sunday.

Under the compromise, Samuel Sheinbein, 17, would be tried in a U.S. court but serve any prison sentence in Israel for allegedly murdering and dismembering a man in Maryland last September before he fled to Israel.

David Libai, Sheinbein's

Israeli lawyer, had accepted the compromise proposed in April by a Jerusalem district court judge but said his client would only drop his battle against extradition if U.S. prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

Justice officials in Maryland had expressed concern that Sheinbein would be released early if he served a term in Israel.

Sheinbein was arrested by Israeli police after fleeing the United States shortly after the murder and has since battled

extradition on the grounds that he inherited Israeli citizenship from his Israeli-born father.

Israeli nationals may not be extradited under Israeli law.

Israeli Attorney General Eliakim Rubinstein ruled in November that Sheinbein, who had never previously been to Israel, could not claim citizenship.

Rubinstein said Sheinbein's father left Israel as a child before the adoption of a 1952 law which automatically grants citizenship to anyone born of Israeli parents.

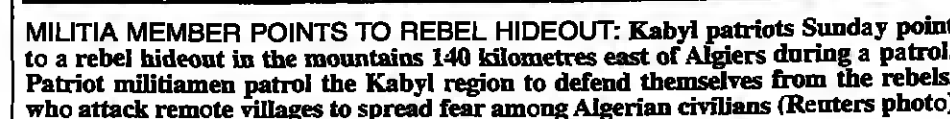
Family says Israeli army refusing to return son's body

RAFAT (AFP) — A Palestinian family called for international action Sunday against the Israeli army, saying it has held the body of their son since November when he died in an unexplained explosion.

Badran Abu Asbar, 24, died Nov. 21 apparently from a bomb that exploded in his hand in the West Bank village of Rafat, southwest of Nablus.

Since then, the army, which controls security in the village, has refused to return the body pending the completion of an investigation into the explosion, said his brother, Zaharan.

The family urged international human rights groups to pressure the Israeli army to return the body so it could be buried.



MILITIA MEMBER POINTS TO REBEL HIDEOUT: Kabyl patriots Sunday point to a rebel hideout in the mountains 140 kilometres east of Algiers during a patrol. Patriot militiamen patrol the Kabyl region to defend themselves from the rebels, who attack remote villages to spread fear among Algerian civilians (Reuters photo)

German troops arrive to train in Israel for first time

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A group of German army cadets accompanied by German Chief of Staff General Helmut Willmann arrived in Israel Sunday for the first exchange programme between the two countries' armed forces, the army said.

The three-week training programme for the 17 select officer cadets was scheduled to begin with a ceremony at Yad Vashem, the museum and memorial for the six million Jews killed during World War II by Nazi forces under Germany's Third Reich.

It was the first time a group of German cadets has trained in a country which was not a member of NATO, although individual German officers have participated in Israeli army training courses in the past.

Gen. Willmann was due to leave Israel on Monday after talks with senior Israeli army chiefs.

The cadets were then to begin their training by travelling around Israel and learning the country's history for one week before being split up into groups and assigned to

different battalions, an army spokesman said.

He said the field-training segment of their stay would focus primarily on desert warfare.

Before leaving Germany the officer cadets spent a week in Koblenz, near Bonn, at a preparatory course on German and Israeli history with special emphasis on the Holocaust and neo-Nazism in Germany today.

The German defence ministry called the visit a chance to "build tolerance and openness toward other cultures."

Saudi offers to help improve U.S.-Iran ties — papers

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has offered to help bring about rapprochement between the United States and Iran, Saudi-owned newspapers said Sunday.

The London-based daily Al Hayat quoted diplomats in Riyadh as saying that Saudi officials offered U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who visited the kingdom on Friday and Saturday, to carry the views of the United States to Tehran.

"Diplomatic sources said Saudi Arabia renewed its mediation offer to America to help narrow differences

between Washington and Tehran, by conveying the United States' views on the subject during an upcoming visit by the Saudi foreign minister to Iran," Al Hayat said in a front-page story.

The newspaper said the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, was due to visit Iran in the "next few days."

Ashtar Al Awsar, another London-based Saudi-owned newspaper, carried a similar front-page story. Neither dailies gave any further details.

Ties between Saudi Ara-

bia and non-Arab Iran, the Gulf's heavyweights, have been improving since moderate Iranian cleric Mohammad Khatami was elected president last year.

Saudi Arabia is Washington's main Arab ally in the Gulf.

Mr. Khatami has called for dialogue and cultural exchanges between the Iranian and American people.

The newspapers said Mr. Gore's talks with Saudi officials focused on Middle East peace efforts and on the situation in the Gulf.

The army frequently confiscates from families the bodies of suspected Palestinian activists who die in Israeli-controlled areas in explosions of bombs the army alleged that were meant to be used in anti-Israeli attacks.

Ben Zaharan Abu Asbar said his brother was not a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which has taken responsibility for several attacks that have killed dozens of Israelis.

Somali faction says it repulsed attack

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A faction in strife-torn Somalia claimed on Sunday that it had fought off an offensive by a rival group in the south of the country and recaptured territory in battles costing around 70 lives.

The Somali National Front (SNF), dominated by members of the Marehan clan, said it had succeeded in fighting off militiamen loyal to Kismayo warlord General Mohammed Said Hersi "Morgan."

Marehan militiamen said they had recaptured the Kabsuma village, 90 kilometres southwest of the Indian Ocean port of Kismayo.

Gen. Morgan's militiamen on Saturday took up defensive

positions at Gobweyn village on the road to Mogadishu, reliable sources here said.

At least 69 people have died and more than 100 others wounded in two weeks of fighting around Kismayo, including six killed and eight wounded in fighting on Saturday, the sources said.

The violence has subsided, but rival militias have continued bringing in reinforcements from other areas.

South Mogadishu warlord Hussein Mohammed Aided on Saturday said his militia were not involved in the fighting in Kismayo and appealed to the warring sides stop hostilities.

But witnesses said armed wagons believed to belong to

Mr. Aided's forces had been seen driving from the capital to the battle zone.

Meanwhile, Abdi Mahdi Abdi Salam, a faction leader from the Ogaden clan, has accused Mogadishu warlords of instigating violence in Kismayo.

Mr. Abdi Salam, in a letter to AFP's Nairobi bureau, accused Mr. Aided and supporters of the SNF of committing atrocities against the people of southern Somalia despite efforts by local elders to pacify the region.

"The Mogadishu factions must not interfere in the affairs of Kismayo after they failed to resolve their differences in their own fiefdoms," Mr. Abdi Salam said.

World Press Photo laureate gives prize to orphans of Algerian violence

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian photo-reporter who won 1997's World Press Photo Award for his picture of a woman devastated by her children's deaths in a massacre gave his cash prize Sunday to orphans of violence.

Hocine, a correspondent for Agence France Presse, took the picture of the woman outside a hospital last September. It has been named the "Algerian Madonna" for its portrayal of one

impact of the country's strife.

Hocine said he wished to "contribute in a modest way to easing the suffering of children left without families or resources in an Algeria torn asunder by blind violence."

He gave his prize of \$7,500, received in Amsterdam on April 20, to the Benevolent Algerian Association for Childhood and Wellcoming Families (AAEFAB), a charity which aims to find families for orphans

and particularly the thousands whose parents have been killed since 1992.

A woman who had been leaning weakly against a wall after a systematic overnight slaughter at Bentatla near Algiers suddenly sank to the ground. Hocine caught her hopeless collapse on film.

"She has just learnt that her eight children are dead," a nearby woman said. Hocine's record of the moment made front pages worldwide and was selected

by a nine-strong jury from 36,041 submissions by 3,627 photographers.

Hocine, whose full name is withheld to protect his identity in Algeria, has been working for AFP for five years.

A travelling exhibition of his work is being shown this year in Paris, Cologne, London, New York, Tokyo, Milan and Johannesburg, as well as in Bosnia and Kazakhstan.

Kuwait invasion remains obstacle to Arab summit — GCC

DUBAI (AFP) — The rift caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait still poses an obstacle to the holding of a successful Arab summit, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said Sunday.

"We must not forget that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait aroused bitterness, anger, hatred and a lack of confidence in the Iraqi regime," Jamil Al Hujailan said in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Hayat.

"For a full Arab summit to achieve

its objectives, we must work to eliminate the after effects" of the invasion, said the head of the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"I don't think there are differences between the GCC countries over their relations with Iraq," which has been under U.N. economic sanctions since the invasion, he said.

"But that does not prevent certain member states from expressing their

sympathy for the Iraqi people [under sanctions] or from hosting Iraqi government delegations," said Mr. Hujailan.

The UAE, Qatar and Oman support moves towards a normalisation with Iraq, while Kuwait is firmly opposed.

Iraq was excluded from the last Arab summit, held in Cairo in June 1996.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said at the time that Iraq was not invited because of "sensitivities" left over from the invasion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IAEA probing evidence Pakistan offered to help Iraq with nukes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is looking into evidence that a top Pakistani scientist may have offered to help Iraq build a nuclear bomb, Newsweek reported. In its most recent issue, the weekly newsmagazine reported that the IAEA has a memorandum from Iraq's intelligence service to the nuclear-weapons directorate which reports a proposal from "Pakistani scientist Dr. Abd El Qader Khan." Iraq confirmed the document in December but said that they had rejected the offer because of fear it was a sting, and Pakistan called it a fraud, Newsweek reported.

Iran, Iraq to resume prisoner exchanges on May 15

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq and Iran are to resume prisoner exchanges on May 15 with the aim of finally closing the file on prisoners of war (PoWs) from their 1980-1988 war, an Iraqi newspaper said Sunday. The weekly Al Nassawa Al Arabi said a joint commission on PoWs decided on the date, but there was no immediate confirmation from the Baghdad office of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

47,000 bottles of alcohol destroyed in UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arabian desert was soaked with alcohol as bulldozers crushed 47,000 bottles and buried them in a crackdown on illegal liquor trade in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), newspapers reported Sunday. The 12,000 bottles of beer and 35,000 bottles of whisky, wine and other liquors were embedded under the sand on Saturday in Sharjah, the third biggest emirate in the oil-rich UAE. They were seized in a string of police raids on shops and houses over the past year as part of a clampdown on illegal liquor trade following Sharjah's decision in the late 1980s to ban alcohol.

Home N

Jordanian-German business day opens tomorrow

AMMAN (R) — The Jordanian Chamber of Industry and the Association of Industrial and Commercial Systems (AICS) are co-sponsoring a day of business and investment with the German Embassy in Amman. The day will be held on Tuesday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jordanian Chamber of Industry. The day will feature a presentation by the German Embassy on the latest developments in German industry and commerce, and a presentation by the Jordanian Chamber of Industry on the latest developments in Jordanian industry and commerce. The day will also feature a presentation by the AICS on the latest developments in the Jordanian industrial and commercial systems.

JVA hotel

AMMAN (R) — The Jordanian Veterans Association (JVA) is planning to build a hotel in Amman. The hotel will be built on a plot of land in the city of Amman. The hotel will have 100 rooms and will be used to accommodate veterans and their families. The hotel will also be used to accommodate tourists and business visitors. The hotel will be built at a cost of \$10 million. The JVA is currently seeking investors for the hotel. The hotel is expected to be completed by the end of 1997.

Gover

recent

AMMAN (R) — The Jordanian Veterans Association (JVA) is planning to build a hotel in Amman. The hotel will be built on a plot of land in the city of Amman. The hotel will have 100 rooms and will be used to accommodate veterans and their families. The hotel will also be used to accommodate tourists and business visitors. The hotel will be built at a cost of \$10 million. The JVA is currently seeking investors for the hotel. The hotel is expected to be completed by the end of 1997.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarath arrives in Qatar for visit

AMMAN (R) — HRH Princess Sarath, accompanied by her husband, Prince Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, arrived in Qatar Sunday for a three-day visit. The visit is part of a tour of the Gulf states. The princess will visit the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and the Qatar Education Foundation. She will also meet with the Qatari Prime Minister and other officials. The princess is expected to leave Qatar on Wednesday.

What's going on

Two films — "The Englishman and the Arab" and "The Englishman and the Arab" — will be shown at the Jordanian Chamber of Industry on Tuesday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The films will be shown in the auditorium of the Jordanian Chamber of Industry. The films are about the relationship between the British and the Arabs in the Middle East. The films are expected to be popular with the audience.

What's going on

Two films — "The Englishman and the Arab" and "The Englishman and the Arab" — will be shown at the Jordanian Chamber of Industry on Tuesday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The films will be shown in the auditorium of the Jordanian Chamber of Industry. The films are about the relationship between the British and the Arabs in the Middle East. The films are expected to be popular with the audience.

What's going on

Two films — "The Englishman and the Arab" and "The Englishman and the Arab" — will be shown at the Jordanian Chamber of Industry on Tuesday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The films will be shown in the auditorium of the Jordanian Chamber of Industry. The films are about the relationship between the British and the Arabs in the Middle East. The films are expected to be popular with the audience.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
15:10 Cartoon — The New Fred and Barney Show
15:30 Drama — Raider of the South Pacific
16:00 Drama — Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — Last Frontiers
17:00 French Programme — Thalassa
18:00 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Hope and Gloria
20:00 Doc. — Perspective
21:10 Marker — "Snow Ball's in Hawaii"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Law and Order — "Second Opinion"
23:10 Bay Watch Nights — "Takeover"
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 Fajr
05:43 Sunrise
12:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:22 Maghreb
20:48 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

JORDANIAN CHURCHES

Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 463785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4634590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4634757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Hot and dry weather conditions will prevail, temperatures rising further with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman16/35
Aqaba24/39
Deserts15/37
Jordan Valley21/41
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub779797

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Dept.4630321
Hotel Complaints5605800
Price Complaints5661176

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery5921199
The Islamic Abdi5666137
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 856856
Luzmila4630195
Khalidi Maternity464281/6
Aldileh Maternity4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity4643263
Malhas, J. Amman,4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5353444
University Hospital5667227/9
Al-Hilli, Abdali56641646

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15Sanaa (RJ)
08:40Brussels (add) (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:30Damascus (RJ)
10:15New Delhi (RJ)
10:25Beirut (RJ)
10:50Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:05Cairo (RJ)
17:30London (RJ)
17:45New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45Kuwait (RJ)
19:30Bangkok (RJ)
19:40Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
03:50Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45Beirut (RJ)
12:00Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:20Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45Kuwait (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
21:15Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:40Damascus (RJ)
21:45Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
Other Flights
06:15Istanbul (TK)
06:35Larnaca (CY)
07:30Paris (AF)
08:20London (AF)
08:45Beirut (ME)
11:30Cairo (MS)
15:00Bahrain (GF)
15:50Vienna (OS)
16:30Doha (QR)
16:45Istanbul (SD)
20:45Dubai (EK)
23:10Tel Aviv (LY)
23:15Khartoum (SD)
02:30Amsterdam (KL)

ROYAL WINGS (RW)

08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Jordanian-German business day opens tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce System Abroad (DIHT), in cooperation with the German embassy and the Investment Promotion Corporation, will hold a Jordanian-German business promotion day for Sahab-based local industrialists on Tuesday.

The ACI recently made business networking and provision of information on Jordanian industries a priority after Jordan signed a partnership deal with the European Union (EU) in November.

The Kingdom is working on entering into the Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO) later this year.

The event, to be held in Sahab at the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, falls within the framework of encouraging the development of business opportunities between German and Jordanian industrialists by showing the "depth" of cooperation and coordination between the chamber and DIHT, an ACI statement said.

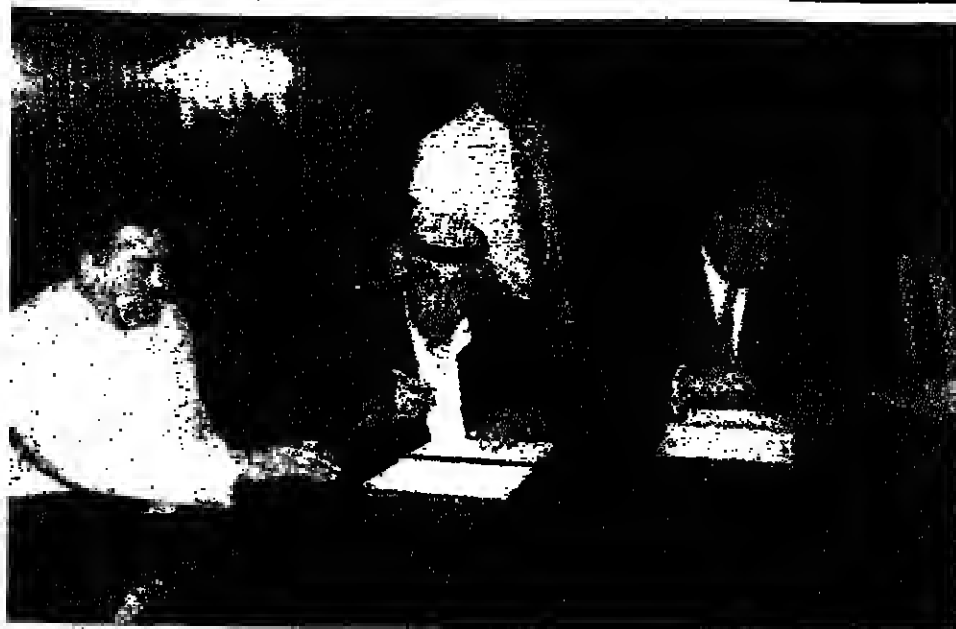
The promotion-oriented event will include the expertise of Matthias Oehmle and Von Oppenobsky from the Commercial Department of the German embassy and Helmut Berndt from the GIZ project for standardisation.

These experts will offer consultation on export investment, business cooperation and European customs, standards and norms, as well as marketing events, said Maria Riedel, DIHT representative in Jordan.

The ACI and DIHT have a partnership agreement. Among the two organisations' most recent joint projects were structuring the ACI's database, which is described as having unmatched pioneering "depth of detail" in comparison to other DIHT members and has been on-line since March.

The ACI Website has become a focal point for the National Database of Local Industries, which is fed information through the Industrial Committee of the National Information Centre.

There are currently 73 DIHT chambers of commerce and industry in 80 countries around the globe.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Monther Haddadin and the general manager of the Hussein Attieh Contracting Company sign the contract Sunday (Petra photo)

JVA awards JD1.6m Dead Sea hotel water supply contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Sunday awarded a local firm a JD1.6 million contract to supply water to the hotels being built on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

According to Minister of Water and Irrigation Monther Haddadin, who signed the deal with the general manager of the Hussein Attieh Contracting Company, the project entails laying a 19.4-kilometre water pipeline within 300 days from the Kafrein region to the

hotels. Dr. Haddadin said the project is one of a series of plans, including other infrastructure services such as electricity, telephones and roads, to develop the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

The contract stipulates that the pipeline draw water from three artesian wells with a combined capacity of 300 cubic metres an hour that have been drilled at Kafrein, he said.

Four hotels are being constructed at the Dead Sea by

Jordanian and foreign investors, including the American Marriott chain, the French group ACCOR, the Hyatt hotel chain and a German company. Their total investment could reach \$280 million.

The construction of the four hotels, part of an ambitious plan to build 8,000 rooms along the Dead Sea by the year 2010, will add 1,600 rooms to the 100 available at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel, Jordan's only hotel in the area.

Government investigations into recent spate of crimes continuing

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government on Sunday said it was investigating a spate of recent crimes and bombings alien to a country that has always prided itself with security in a volatile region.

Minister of Interior Nafith Rashid declined to confirm or deny the media's speculation that several suspects were arrested following last week's attacks against former security officials, the head of the Royal Medical Services, the headquarters of the Highway Patrol and a four-star hotel.

"Security authorities are continuing their investigations and are carrying out their duties to uncover those behind these acts," he told the Jordan Times yesterday.

The minister declined to comment on a report from the Lebanese capital Beirut on Sunday in which a previously unknown group claimed responsibility for the car bombing at Al Quds International Hotel on Thursday.

Agence France Presse (AFP) said the Abu Thar Al Ghafary Group faxed a statement to the agency office in Beirut claiming responsibility for the explosion. No one was killed or injured.

The statement said the explosion occurred before "the celebration that was conducted by the embassy of the enemy [Israel] in Jordan" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Jewish state.

The daily Al Arab Al Yawm said in a report yesterday that the house of the director of the Royal Medical Services Major General Yousef Qasous, was sprayed by bullets, but no one was injured.

It also said molotov cocktail bombs were thrown at a few police cars earlier last week.

A car belonging to former head of the General Intelligence Department, Mohammad Rasoul Kilani, was set on fire Tuesday. No one was injured.

Police on Saturday said a total of 46,713 crimes were recorded last year, an increase

of 1.9 per cent over 1996, but insisted that Jordan remained free of organised crime.

"The crime rate in Jordan is low compared with other Arab countries," said Lt. Col Ahmad Qudrah from the Public Security Department.

Lt. Col. Qudrah said homicides comprised the lowest number of crimes and misdemeanours resulting from quarrels were the most commonly reported offences. He said premeditated murders were decreasing.

He said crimes that were "alien to the traditions and customs of Jordanian society are minimal," an apparent reference to last January's fatal stabbing of a senior Iraqi diplomat and several others, including a prominent businessman. The assailants remain at large.

Another crime that shook Jordan was April's fatal shooting of top lawyer Hana Nadeh, his son Suhail and prominent psychiatrist, Awad Sa'ad. The three were found dead at Dr. Sa'ad's clinic in Amman and assailants also remain at large.

Israeli airspace open again to RJ following one-day wildcat strike

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) official yesterday said Israel had reopened its airspace to international flights early Sunday morning after it closed its national airspace unexpectedly on Saturday.

Captain Jasser Ziyad, head of the CAA, told the Jordan Times that Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights, temporarily diverted to Syrian airspace, had, for the time being, resumed their normal course

of flight over Israeli airspace yesterday morning. But a strike by Israeli air controllers may again disrupt the flights next Saturday.

Capt. Ziyad said RJ flights destined for Europe and North America had been diverted due to a strike by Israeli air controllers, which took the Israeli Airport Authority by surprise on the Jewish Sabbath. Yesterday, RJ officials said Israeli authorities had not given them a reason for diverting the flights.

According to Israeli Embassy spokesperson Ro'ey

Gilad, air controllers went on strike to protest regulations issued nearly one month ago by the Israeli Airport Authority that included new regulations on working hours and shifts on the Sabbath.

The Israeli airports authority spokesperson Pin Schiff was quoted by AP yesterday as saying that the controllers held the wildcat strike in violation of an agreement with the authority.

"The controllers weren't happy with the new statutes and decided to go on strike without telling anyone," he said. Mr. Gilad added that he

was still unaware of their particular grievances with the new regulations, but said the airport authority is now considering disciplinary action against the controllers.

"Royal Jordanian is not the only airline that has suffered from this strike," he said. "All Israeli and international flights have been affected by this."

Both Capt. Ziyad and Mr. Gilad said they hoped the airport authority and controllers would have the issue resolved by next Saturday, when flights will have to be again diverted if the strike resumes.

PSD to mark Traffic Day with ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) today is holding a ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman to mark Traffic Day and Arab Traffic Week, according to a PSD official.

Major General Abdul Raouf Hussein, assistant PSD director for traffic affairs, said the ceremony, to be held under the patronage of Minister of Interior Nafith Rashid, is designed to focus attention on the increasing number of road accidents in the Kingdom.

In 1967, the United Nations called on the countries of the world to observe May 4 each year as a world traffic day to draw attention to the carnage on the roads and to raise public awareness on the danger of accidents, Maj. Gen. Hussein said.

The observance of Traffic Day as well as Arab Traffic Week is aimed at focusing attention on the magnitude of this problem and drawing attention to the huge human and material losses that the Kingdom is incurring each year, he added.

Referring to accidents in Jordan, Maj. Gen. Hussein noted that in 1993, 24,799 accidents killed 440 people and injured 11,754; in 1994, 26,837 accidents caused the death of 443 persons and the injury of 12,516 others; and in 1995, 28,970 accidents killed 469 persons and injured 13,184.

Last year, there were 39,005 accidents, causing the death of 577 persons and the injury of 16,239 others.

Awqaf minister briefs Iranian cleric on shrine renovations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi on Sunday said the ministry was planning to build a "charitable business centre" in the centre of Amman as part of its projects to raise funds for charity.

Speaking at a meeting with Ayatollah Jaffer Subhani, visiting director of the Imam Sadeq religious institution in the Iranian city of Qom, Dr. Abbadi outlined the ministry's investment plans and its role in collecting zakat (alms for the poor) and training mosque preachers.

Dr. Abbadi also reviewed Jordan's endeavours to restore and refurbish the Dome of the

Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. He noted that the 1994 restoration campaign was the third such Hashemite project, following previous renovations in 1924 and 1964.

The minister briefed Ayatollah Subhani on the current restoration of Islamic shrines and the tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's companions buried in Jordan, including Abi Obaidah Amer Ben Al Jarrah, who is buried in the Jordan Valley.

The cost of restoring that shrine alone is expected to reach JD4 million because it will be adjoined to a complex that includes a library and a Koran teaching school, among

other facilities, and will be surrounded by a public garden.

Referring to the management of holy shrines in occupied Jerusalem, Dr. Abbadi said the task is entrusted to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The minister spoke in detail on the role of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation, which he said has been providing relief aid to areas in Islamic countries exposed to natural disasters.

The Iranian cleric later called at the King Abdullah the Martyr Mosque and inspected the museum, which displays artefacts from different Islamic eras.

Majali asks labour ministry to determine number of unemployed, guest workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday requested that the Ministry of Labour conduct an in-depth study and all necessary surveys to identify the actual number of unemployed Jordanians as well as guest workers in the Kingdom.

Speaking during a meeting with Minister of Labour Mohammad Farhan, Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh and the ministry's planning committee, Dr. Majali said the studies are needed to help the government make decisions concerning the problem of unemployment.

Dr. Majali also called for coordination of efforts between the concerned government departments and employers and workers to help find the best way to deal with the unemployment question.

He emphasised the need for

the Ministry of Labour to cooperate with the ministerial committee entrusted with organising the labour market. The prime minister also urged the ministry to give due attention to training programmes with the goal of raising the efficiency and productivity of Jordanian workers to enable them to meet the demands of economic and social changes, both regional and international.

Dr. Majali urged Jordanian youth searching for jobs to accept the available employment opportunities, which he said are estimated to be in the tens of thousands. Jordanian youth should transcend the "culture of shame" in their quest for jobs, he added.

The prime minister said the youth, including college graduates, should take advantage of loans provided by the country's different funds to start small and medium size

projects to earn a living.

Dr. Majali took part in a general discussion by committee members about unemployment and listened to the views of the directors of the ministry's departments.

Last week, the prime minister gave permission for a national conference to be held in August on the problem of unemployment in Jordan.

The conference was approved after he received a proposal to this effect from Minister of Administrative Development Bassam Emoush.

Both the private and public sectors will be represented at the meeting, during which several working papers are to be reviewed.

Government sources have estimated that there are at least 100,000 unemployed Jordanians at present, while 600,000 non-Jordanians are working in the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarvath arrives in Qatar for visit

DOHA (Petra) — HRH Princess Sarvath, accompanied by HRH Princess Rahmah, Sunday began a three-day visit to Qatar upon the invitation of Sheikhah Moza. Princess Sarvath will visit a number of Qatari educational centres, institutions, and universities, as well as centres for educating persons with special needs. She will also discuss scopes of cooperation in educational fields with the Qatari minister of education. Princess Sarvath and her accompanying delegation were received upon arrival at Doha airport by the wives of the Qatari prime minister and foreign minister as well as other personalities in Qatar.

Heat wave to hit Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — A heat wave will affect the Kingdom over the next few days, with temperatures above the seasonal average by nine-11 degrees, according to the Meteorology Department. They added that winds will be southeasterly moderate to active.

what's going on

FILMS

* Two films entitled "The Last Empire" and "Famous Five" at the British Council, Jabel Amman on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. respectively.

* "Le Sauvage" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

LECTURES

* "Political Life and the Challenges of Building Parties in Jordan" (in Arabic) by Secretary General of the National Constitutional Party Abdul Hadi Majali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

* "Poems About Animals" by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council, Jabel Amman at 5:00 p.m.

* "USAID's Expanded Role and New Opportunities" by Brian Atwood from USAID at the Le Meridien Hotel (former Forte Grand) on Tuesday, May 5, at 2:30 p.m.

* Works by Muhammad Ali 'Amiri at the Jordan Writers Association building, Jabel Weibdeh (Tel. 4621724), until May 8.

* Works by Ecuadorian artist Omedo Quimbis at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman, until May 12.

Growing scepticism among journalists over new press law

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Journalists on Sunday observed International Press Day as scepticism grows over the extent of freedom the government and Parliament will grant them under a new press law.

His Majesty King Hussein last month asked the government to present a new law to replace the tough press revisions that were introduced in May but overturned by the

High Court in January.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour told editorial writers recently that the government will introduce a balanced law that guarantees freedom of expression while guarding national interests and preventing offences and the spread of false information.

While most journalists fear the new law will limit freedom of expression, some blamed their own publishers for failing to improve their editorial operation and raise the standard of

the profession.

Journalists are in a "continuous struggle for press freedom," the publisher of the outspoken Al Mithaq weekly, Nihad Hantar, said.

He told the Jordan Times that he believed the tug of war between the press and the government was resulting in a continuous state of confusion.

"The government wants to maintain control of the press, [but] since it cannot resort to martial law, it uses a constitutional tool to restrict press free-

dom," Mr. Hantar said.

"The media meanwhile is weak and fearful from the imposed laws. They should fight for their freedom," he added.

He expected that the new draft law to be a copy of the law that the High Court rejected as being unconstitutional and that the ceiling of freedom will remain low because the new one will not allow all those "yearning for freedom of expression to practice it."

Fahed Fanek, Jordan's lead-

ing columnist and a strong defender of freedom of expression, also expressed fear that the new draft law might impose even further "uncalled for" restrictions.

In his column in Al Ra'i yesterday, Mr. Fanek said the law must include professional and advanced journalism codes that lift the ceiling of freedom and give the final authority to the courts, and not the government, to punish offenders.

"The new law will be a turning point in Jordan's history. It will either advance democracy or retreat it to a point that will eventually lead to our loss," he wrote.

He, as well as other journalists, however defended the level of freedom of expression in Jordan as being far better than in many neighbouring countries.

The president of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA), Seif Sharif, told the Jordan Times yesterday that though last year witnessed a setback for freedom of expression, it provided journalists with a lesson.

He said both journalists and the government should learn from their past mistakes, especially last year's experience when the government felt it had to introduce a temporary law because of inaccurate media practice.

He said he was optimistic with the government's intent to follow the proper channels to introduce a far better law

that will grant journalists more freedom.

On the occasion of International Press Day, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) issued a list last week of 10 world leaders that it labelled as the "enemies of the press."

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was placed on the list.

The CPJ statement said: "In a little more than a year in office, Majali has mounted a harsh offensive against Jordan's outspoken independent press, known for its aggressive coverage of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty."

Government officials were not immediately available for comment on the statement issued by the CPJ.

Also on the occasion, the Jordan Society for Human Rights (JSHR) said freedom of the press and the right of citizens to have access to information deteriorated last year.

In a statement, the JSHR urged the government to consult with journalists and Parliament before finalising the new law and called on it to honour those international human rights accords which Jordan has signed.

"In monitoring the exercises of press freedoms in the past year, the JSHR regrettably did not find any bright aspects that deserve praise," the statement said, adding that it viewed last year as "a black year for freedom of the press and expression in Jordan."

Relatives leave for Kuwait to visit Jordanian detainees

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanians to meet with relatives detained in Kuwait," added Mr. Qassis, assistant to the head of the ICRC delegation for information.

The Geneva-based world organisation will cover all travel and accommodation expenses.

Previous visits took place in June and September 1995, and in January 1997.

Press reports earlier this month said that a group of 41 Jordanians were to visit 25 imprisoned relatives in the fourth trip.

However, Mr. Qassis explained that both the number of visitors and prisoners to be visited decreased because "some of the detainees were released."

He was referring to an Apr. 27 decision by Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to grant a special pardon to 13 Jordanian prisoners, on the occasion of the Islamic holiday of the Hijri new year.

A first group of 10 Jordanian prisoners was released last February.

News reports from Kuwait City last

week quoted Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al Sabah as saying that an additional 25 Jordanians held at the Talha deportation centre would be expelled and sent back home on a collective passport.

But the reports did not say when the detainees would be repatriated or for how long they have been held at the controversial deportation centre — a thorn in Kuwait's ties with international human rights groups.

Talha station, south of Kuwait City, has recently been at the centre of a heated debate, with human rights organisations urging the Kuwaiti government to close the facility because of alleged human rights violations and the centre's inadequacy to accommodate the over 400 prisoners currently held there.

Kuwait responded by saying that it could not close the station, because many of the prisoners held there, mainly Iraqis, either do not want to go home, have nowhere to go, or must pay overdue residency fees.

Newspapers reported last month that

some inmates at Talha had slashed their wrists in protest against alleged abuse and illegal detention.

Jordanian and ICRC officials could not confirm whether two Jordanians involved in the suicide attempt were included in the group of prisoners to be expelled.

Relations between Jordan and Kuwait soured during the Gulf war. The emirate downgraded its diplomatic representation in Amman to the level of charge d'affaires, while the Jordanian mission in Kuwait has remained closed since 1990.

Over 250,000 Jordanians, many of Palestinian origin, were forced to flee Kuwait because of the crisis.

However, bilateral ties have improved over the last several months, with the foreign ministries of both countries announcing plans to restore full diplomatic relations in June 1997. Royal Jordanian and Kuwaiti Airways also resumed flights to each other's capitals after a seven-year suspension.

Afghan peace talks collapse over lifting of Taleban food blockade

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Peace talks between the warring Afghan factions collapsed Sunday amid a deadlock over lifting a Taleban siege of central Hazarajat to allow food convoys through, officials said.

A United Nations spokesman announced an "indefinite" suspension of the talks after the two sides failed to resume negotiations when the deadline for the Taleban militia's main delegation did not return from a two-day break.

A new date for further talks will be fixed after consultations between the Taleban Islamic militia and rival northern alliance delegations, James Ngohi head of the United Nations Special Mission for Afghanistan said.

Ngohi added the changes made by the Taleban in the composition of their delegation were "not acceptable" to their opponents, but urged both sides to stick to a moratorium against offensives agreed at the beginning of the talks.

But the development cast serious doubts over the progress made, including the setting up of a 40-member peace commission of Islamic scholars which both sides agreed last week would hammer out the major issues towards a peace accord.

Both sides blamed each other for the breakdown of the talks launched on April 26 under the aegis of the U.N. and the 54-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, following a high profile U.S. diplomatic initiative.

The Taleban said they had made major concessions in the formation of the commission or ulama, and accused the opposition of wanting to discuss issues such as the blockade that it had been agreed would be left for later.

The northern alliance said the Taleban had broken pledges by downgrading their representation to the Islamabad talks.

Although both sides stressed their commitment to peace, observers said the stalemate presaged a new surge in fighting in Afghanistan, plagued by 18 years of war that have left tens of thousands dead.

Hazarajat is home to some 1.2 million people living in mountain-clinging villages and has been isolated to the south, west and east by a blockade imposed by the Taleban last year.

The route from the north, which is controlled by anti-Taleban forces, has been unsafe for food convoys due to factional fighting and danger of looting and other risks.

The Taleban has refused to lift the blockade despite reports from the World Food Programme that tens of thousands could face starvation fearing the aid could find its way into the hands of opposition fighters.

The main five-member Taleban delegation, led by Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, returned to Afghanistan Thursday for consultations with their leadership before discussing the blockade, a ceasefire and prisoner releases.

But they failed to return, appointing a delegation led by the ambassador to Islamabad instead.

Three hours of intense diplomatic efforts, involving Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Akhounzadeh and Pakistan, to restart the talks foundered, sources said. A diplomat from the U.S. embassy was also present inside.

"We are here at the table but they have violated their pledge by not returning," opposition spokesman Rasul Talib said, as the rivals emerged from the conference hall.

"If they do not accept one part of the agreed agenda it means the whole package has collapsed," Mr. Talib said, when asked about the fate of the 40-man ulama commission.

He said the northern alliance wanted to keep the "guns silent" but it would "depend on the Taleban."

But Taleban spokesman, Abdul Hakim Mujahid, countered that the opposition had wanted to take up issues which were to be left to the commission.

He accused the militia's adversaries of derailing the negotiations, claiming his side made a lot of concessions over the composition of the ulama commission.

Mr. Mujahid, Taleban ambassador to Pakistan, said he and his two embassy officials had come to resume the talks with "full authority" from the leadership.

He said the Islamic Emirate of Taleban, which controls 80 per cent of Afghanistan, did not believe in a "military solution," but the opposition was erecting "hurdles" in the way of peace.

Mr. Mujahid said the Taleban had proposed the Islamabad negotiations, which were held within the framework of a joint steering committee, be resumed in the militia-held eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad or in the Pakistani capital Wednesday.

But the opposition spokesman said their delegation would be leaving for home Monday.



Abdul Hakim Mujahid, Afghan ambassador to Pakistan and spokesman for the Taleban Islamic movement speaks to reporters in Islamabad after the peace talks failed (Reuters photo)

'No progress in reeducation of Vietnamese journalist'

HANOI (AFP) — Journalist and academic Doan Viet Hoat, imprisoned since 1990, has been refused visits by relatives because "there has been no progress with his reeducation," a family member said Sunday, World Press Freedom Day.

Three of Hoat's brothers who went to the Thanh Cam reeducation camp near the Lao border in early February were refused permission to see him, the relative said.

Prison authorities told them the interior minister had banned visits to Hoat "because there had been no progress with his reeducation," the family source told AFP.

Hoat, a leading dissident in Vietnam, is one of five journalists imprisoned by the Communist authorities.

His family has received no word on him since last August and was unsure if he was still held at Thanh Cam as prison wardens refused to accept medicine and food for him, the relative said.

Hoat, 55, is said to be suffering from high blood pressure, kidney problems and failing sight.

"We are worried about his health. He has suffered a lot during his years of imprisonment," the source said. "But his ideals have grown stronger because of this situation."

After being detained for 12 years without trial from 1976 to 1988, Hoat was arrested in 1990 and sentenced in 1993 to 20 years in prison, later reduced to 15 years.

He was charged with "attempting to overthrow the government" after calling for democracy in Vietnam in a magazine he founded with a group of intellectuals in Ho Chi Minh City.

His case is regularly taken up with Hanoi by foreign governments, and was raised last June by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit to Vietnam.

The World Association of Newspapers (WAN), which groups 15,000 newspapers, and the French-based organisation Reporters Sans Frontières have been working for his freedom.

The WAN has awarded Hoat its Golden Pen award for press freedom which will be presented to his wife in Japan next month.

'Indonesian press tests the boundaries of strict constraints'

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian press still faces considerable restrictions but has recently tested the boundaries, a human rights lawyer said Sunday.

"The constraints facing our press have not changed, the control mechanism hovering over them has not changed," Hendardi, executive director of the Indonesian Association of Journalists and Human Rights and Legal Aid told AFP.

Commenting on World Press Freedom Day, Mr. Hendardi said the Indonesian press, all of which must belong to the state-sanctioned Indonesian Association of Journalists, still risked losing publication licenses at the whim of the government.

Although the media were privately owned and run, the government had the right to close any publication on the basis of national unity and stability.

However he cited recent examples where the press had reported on topics it generally have avoided in the past.

"But in recent months, there has also been a new phenomenon, that the press has increasingly become more courageous," Mr. Hendardi said.

He cited comprehensive press reports on the widespread student demonstrations that have rocked the country since February, cases of missing activists and on the plight of the common people in the face of the current economic crisis.

"You can begin to see that the press is now opening the way for more democracy through their reporting in the past months," he said.

The government only recognises the Indonesian Association of Journalists and has refused to recognise the Alliance of Independent Journalists founded in 1994 which was formed in response to the banning of three leading weeklies.

He said although government officials have said they would use the legal system to control the press instead of outright closure, the risk of banning still existed.

He also said press workers, especially journalists, but also printers and office support staff still faced other risks in their duties.

He cited the death of at least three journalists since August 1996 which remained unsolved and the jail sentences on several press activists one of whom is in detention awaiting trial.

Three journalists have died under mysterious circumstances in Sleman, central Java, in West Kalimantan and in South Sulawesi since August 1996. "But overall, I am heartened by the courage of the press in their reporting these last few months," Mr. Hendardi said.

Hunt continues for kidnapped Yeltsin envoy

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Security forces were hunting Sunday for a "perfect Russian-speaking" gang who seized President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya, while the Chechen government offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the official's release.

The abductors of Vladimir Vlasov, the highest-level Russian yet to be kidnapped in the northern Caucasus, were "a highly professional group of terrorists," Chechen Deputy State Attorney Magomed Magomadov was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying.

He told AFP that Mr. Vlasov's driver and bodyguard, themselves under arrest on suspicion of complicity, had said "the attackers spoke perfect Russian, without Caucasian accents and had an athletic build."

The hostage, Mr. Yeltsin's official representative to Chechnya, could now be captive anywhere in Chechnya or elsewhere in southern Russia, officials said.

Mr. Magomadov confirmed that Mr. Vlasov was pulled from his car early Friday by five armed men in military fatigues on the Chechen side of the border with another southern Russian ethnic minority, Ingushetia, and not on the Ingushetian side as earlier reported.

Two days after his abduction as he was driving to the airport at Nazran, the Ingushetian capital, the authorities still had no idea of Mr. Vlasov's fate.

Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov appealed on television Saturday evening to all Chechens to assist in finding and releasing Mr. Vlasov.

But Ivan Rybkin, Russia's government official dealing with Chechnya affairs, criticised the \$100,000 reward offered by Mr. Maskhadov for information leading to Mr. Vlasov's release, saying Moscow would not pay a ransom.

Mr. Vlasov is the first senior Russian official seized in Russia's unruly northern Caucasus region since the end of a bitter 21-month war which resulted in de facto independence for Chechnya.

Chechnya and other southern Russian republics have been plagued by a wave of hostage-taking since a ceasefire ended the Chechen war with Russian troops in August 1996 but froze the question of Grozny's final political status for five years.

Mr. Magomadov said Mr. Vlasov's bodyguard and driver had been formally placed under arrest Saturday. He said the driver, Sultan Satayev, was suspected of complicity in the kidnapping, while the unnamed bodyguard was being probed for his failure to offer resistance, Interfax said.

Mr. Magomadov accused Mr. Vlasov of failing to take adequate security measures and ignoring repeated warnings about his safety.

"Vlasov himself also showed criminal negligence, travelling along a very dangerous route where people are periodically abducted, accompanied by only one bodyguard," he said.

Mr. Rybkin said on returning to Moscow after being sent by Mr. Yeltsin Friday for urgent talks with senior Chechen officials that Russia would not meet any ransom demand issued by the kidnappers.

He told Russian television station ORT that handing money over "would be completely obscene."

Mr. Rybkin said the \$100,000 reward was too much. "Against bandits you have to act within the law and international law," he said.

Mr. Vlasov's abduction was intended to further undermine stalemate peace talks between Moscow and Grozny, he said.

"The Russian president's envoy to Chechnya was abducted by people who believe a peace dialogue between Grozny and Moscow is not beneficial," Interfax quoted Mr. Rybkin as saying on his return to Moscow.

Alexander Lebed, Russia's former national security chief who negotiated the Chechnya truce, said Mr. Vlasov "has done a great deal for a peaceful settlement of the Chechen problem. That is why he became a target."

Chechnya regularly accuses Moscow of failing to fulfil its pledges under a peace treaty signed by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Maskhadov in the Kremlin on May 12, 1997, and of imposing an economic blockade on the Muslim republic.

Under last May's accord Russia pledged never again to use force against the secessionist republic, while a separate document agreed to peace pensions and reconstruction work in Chechnya, devastated by a war which cost at least 50,000 lives, mainly civilians.

No release in sight for jailed journalist on Press Freedom Day

BEIJING (AFP) — Despite the early release of well-known dissident Wang Dan last month, relatives of imprisoned journalist Gao Yu have had no indication from authorities a similar fate awaits her on International Press Freedom Day, they said Sunday.

"No, we have heard nothing from the government about a release," her husband, Zhao Yuankang, told AFP on the telephone. The French-based organisation Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF, Reporters Without Borders) called for the 54-year-old journalist's release on medical grounds at the end of March.

Gao, a winner of the prestigious UNESCO/Guillermo Cano prize for Freedom of the Press, is among China's best-known dissidents still in jail.

She was arrested in October 1993 and sentenced a year later to six years in prison for "divulging state secrets" when she worked for the Hong Kong newspapers Mirror Monthly and Chinese Overseas Daily.

China, whose press was rated "among the least free" in the world by a non-profit group called Freedom House this month, made no mention of International Press Freedom Day in its official newspapers.

Poisonous mud being shifted to save Spain's national park

SEVILLE, Spain (AFP) — Excavators and trucks began Sunday shifting 20 million tonnes of toxic mud left after a huge waste spill from a mine threatening Spain's Doñana national park, one of Europe's great wildlife reserves.

A task force set up by the government has ordered the mud to be dumped in a disused mine near the site of the April 25 disaster in Andalusia, southern Spain.

On Saturday, some environmentalists protesting the pollution emptied buckets of black oily water onto the steps of the environment ministry in Madrid on Saturday to simulate a toxic spill, and called for the resignation of Environment Minister Isabel Tocino.

Tocino was on hand to watch the start of clearing-up operations Sunday, together with Manuel Chaves, president of the regional government of Andalusia. The press has estimated that 5,333 lorries with a capacity of 25 tonnes each would be needed each day to recover the 20 million tonnes of toxic mud threatening the Doñana park, a world heritage site, within six months.

The operation to clean up the Guadimar River will be a race against time to prevent poisonous water from seeping into the sub-soil. But officials said it was likely to last at least until October.

The river has been divided into three sectors. Boliden, the company whose mine caused the spillage, will be responsible for cleaning the first section, the central government in Madrid will have responsibility for the second, and the local Andalusian authorities for the third.

The cause of the disaster was a cracked water treatment reservoir at a pyrite mine at Aznalcollar, near Seville, which sent five million cubic metres of highly acid water crashing into the rivers of Andalusia, affecting crops and killing wildlife.

The water and mud contaminated with toxic heavy metals ravaged 20 kilometres of the Guadimar River, badly polluted the Guadalquivir and still threaten the Doñana national park.

The clean-up of the Guadimar began this week with the recovery of more than 15 tonnes of dead fish, eels, crabs and frogs from the polluted waters, according to latest figures.

The disaster sparked mutual recriminations over who was to blame. Local farmers, fishermen and ecologists accused the authorities of negligence, while the conservative government blamed the Socialist head of the Andalusia regional government for the disaster.

However, a week after the toxic waste spill the government task force finally agreed to a proposal from the pyrite mine's Swedish owner Boliden to store the toxic mud in a disused part of the mine.

Boliden has offered to finance the work without waiting for the courts to decide who is to blame.

The industry minister of the Andalusian government, Guillermo Gutierrez, said the clean-up campaign would be a "complicated operation."

Waste treatment companies put the cost of the long-term clean-up of Doñana and its surroundings at "billions and billions of pesetas" (dollars) and said it could take anything up to 15 years.

Victims of the pollution are mainly farmers growing rice, fruit and vegetables along the rivers. They have begun playing down the effects of the spill, fearing a public boycott of their produce.

Government officials did their bit by carrying out a public tasting of local produce, including crayfish from the Guadalquivir, but declined a call from the press to bathe in the river.

But environmental activists have spoken out strongly against the disaster. They plan to hold a protest against the Boliden company in a week's time outside the Swedish embassy in Madrid.

Candidates from Belgium, Italy and Norway for General Naumann's job

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgium, Italy and Norway all have candidates to replace Germany's General Klaus Naumann as chairman of NATO's military committee in spring next year, according to military sources here.

The general's successor, who will have a three-year mandate, will be chosen at a routine half-yearly meeting of chiefs of staff at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation headquarters Tuesday.

The three candidates are Belgium's Vice-Admiral Willy Herteleer, 56, Italy's Admiral Guido Venturini, 64, and Norwegian General Arne Solli, 60.

The vote is by secret ballot and abstentions are not expected. A majority of eight out of 15 votes (Iceland has no army) is required. If a clear winner does not emerge in the first round, the top two candidates will go into a run-off ballot.

Despite being urged to extend his mandate, General Naumann has decided to step down. "I have already prolonged it to the summit of heads of state and government of NATO member countries in April 1999 and have no desire to go on beyond that," he explained.

The military committee is responsible for making recommendations to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, NATO's highest decision-making body, and the Defence Planning Committee and also has authority over the two strategic European and Atlantic commands, both held by U.S. officers.

The job of chairman bears the highest military responsibility in NATO.

World News

More than 100...

JAKARTA (AFP) — Clashes between students demanding public changes and security forces in three towns in Indonesia Saturday left at least six students injured, six of them by rubber-batted bullets, reports said Sunday.

The rubber-batted bullets were fired at the teachers' union at the Jember University in East Java where 12 other students were also injured in addition to the six. Campus daily said it had 25 members of the security forces of the university who were hurt during the clash.

Jakarta police chief Lieutenant Colonel Bambang Soedibyo said the police fired the bullets because the students had been armed with stones and bricks.

"They had been hit by a stone that fell down and was because of shots fired by personnel," another spokesman at the university, the Foreign Languages, a central Java university, said.

At Malang in East Java eight students and police were injured in separate clashes and 49 police were injured, the East...

EURO-JORD

External aid and European Development (98/570-42308/EN) JO-Annex

Call For Expressions of Interest European Community - Call For

- Awarding authority: The 5 Correspondence should be sent to...
- Type: Call for expressions of interest for a list of potential contractors to be cut below. The awarding authority is in point 8 below. Each awarding authority will send the basis of special criteria for the...
- Description of the call for service providers from the project benefiting from the MEDA program Jordanian private sector order required:

- Corporate Planning
- Management Development
- Packaging
- Product Design & Development
- Productivity Improvement
- Quality Control & Standards
- Other related fields

Service providers may be required, inter alia, in the following:

- Garments & Textiles
- Agricultural Industry
- Manufacturing

Place of execution: Jordan

Expiry date of the list results: Not Applicable.

Address to which applications one copy, must be sent by post: expressions of interest No. 1998 companies or service providers a...

Information to be supplied to:

- extract from the judicial notice
- certificate demonstrating the security payments,
- certificate of enrolment on the company's balance sheet
- references of services provided
- statement of average annual...

Appropriate service providers will have excellent knowledge of modern areas of specifications, a good level of excellent communication skills.

Contract covered by EC Co...

More than 100 hurt in Indonesian student protests

JAKARTA (AFP) — Clashes between students demanding political changes and security forces in three Indonesian towns Saturday left 77 policemen and at least 60 students injured, six of them by rubber-coated bullets, reports said Sunday.

The rubber bullets were fired at the Teachers' University in East Jakarta where 33 other students were also seriously injured in addition to the six, Kompas daily said. It said 28 members of the security forces were hurt during the clash, which followed an attempt by some 2,000 students to march down the street to a nearby university.

Jakarta police chief Lieutenant Colonel Edward Artonang was quoted by the Bisnis Indonesia daily as saying only 20 students and 28 members of the security forces had been injured. "All injured students have returned to their homes," Gen. Artonang said.

"They had been hit by a fence that fell down and not because of shots fired by personnel," Another encounter at the Academy for Foreign Languages in central Jakarta left three students injured.

At Malang in East Java students and police fought in two separate incidents and 49 policemen and 30 students were injured, the East

Java-based Jawa Pos daily said.

It said scuffles broke out as students of the Merdeka University and the National Technology Institute attempted to protest on the streets Saturday.

The Jawa Pos said the injuries occurred in the clash with students of the institute in which security forces used tear gas, water cannon and warning shots while the students threw rocks and other debris.

Violence at the Jember University in the town of

the same name 120 kilometres east of Malang left one student injured, the Jawa Pos said.

Student demonstrations to demand political reforms but not involving violence also took place in campuses across Jakarta and in several other cities on the islands of Java, Sumatra and Sulawesi Saturday.

At Medan in North Sumatra, a lawyer from the local branch of the Legal Aid Institute said demonstrators from Nommensen University torched a military police

jeep. The North Sumatra military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Agus Ramadhan, denied the report. He was quoted by Antara news agency as saying students took a new Nissan car from a showroom and burnt it in front of the campus.

Student rallies were also reported at Bandung and Bogor in West Java, at Yogyakarta and Solo in central Java, at Palembang in South Sumatra and at Ujungpandang in South Sulawesi.

Increasing demand for Technical Assistance from the Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team



THE EURO-JORDANIAN Business Service Programme's activities are now being introduced directly to enterprise managements around Jordan. These venues are organised in cooperation with the Industrial Development Unit of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Jordanian Industrial Estates' Corporation and Jordanian Business Associations. The first three venues took place at the Sahab Industrial Estate, at Al Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid and at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce.

The Jordanian business establishment has responded extremely positively to the Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team's proposition to provide tailored and integrated technical assistance directly to Jordanian Private Enterprises. It is important to stress that the technical assistance addresses the needs of individual enterprises and that the Euro-Jordanian Business Service Centre is an independent, professional non-profit organisation that operates directly and in full confidence with its counterparts.

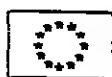
Many promising contacts have already been established. Soon, the first enterprises will be included in the project cycle, which consists of three components:

The Primary Support Component will define and focus on the main opportunities and challenges of the individual enterprises. Following that, the General Support Component will establish an activity plan aiming at finding the right solutions and implementing the subsequent changes. Finally, the Specialised Support Component may be applied in certain cases, where special expertise is needed. The Euro-Jordanian Business Service Centre's activities are funded by the European Union (EU) represented by the European Commission (EC) under the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement. Similar Programmes are facilitated by the EC in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, the West Bank, and Syria.

In Egypt, the programme has been in operation since 1996. The programme now operates at full capacity. More than 300 enterprises from virtually all sectors of Egyptian business environment are now included in the project cycle. Sound consulting experience, confidentiality, and independence are the key aspects of the success of the programmes.

Coming events

The Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team will be hosted by the Jordanian Businessmen Association May 5, by the Salt Chamber of Commerce May 4, by the Jordan Export Development Corporation May 6, by the Amman Chamber of Industry May 11 and by the Business & Professional Women's Club May 13.



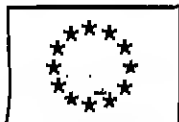
EURO-JORDANIAN • BUSINESS SERVICE TEAM



Call for Expressions of Interest

Consulting firms and institutions with specialised expertise in statistical studies, opinion surveys, and statistical analysis are requested to send details of their qualifications and past experience in these fields to the address provided herein below. Qualified applicants may be invited to submit quotations for specific research assignments. Information should be submitted no later than: May 21, 1998.

Call for Expression of Interest No. DBA/CEE/826
Delegation of the European Commission
P. O. Box 926794 Amman 11110
Fax: 5686746
E-mail: eudelfor@go.com.jo



EURO-JORDANIAN • BUSINESS SERVICE TEAM



External aid and European Development Fund - Tender notice (non structured)
(98/S70-42308/EN) JO-Amman: business consultancy services

Call For Expressions of Interest in favour of Jordan Concerning a project financed by the European Community - Call For Expressions of Interest no. IB/AMI/344

- Awarding authority:** The European Community, represented by the European Commission. Correspondence should be sent to: Delegation of the EC, PO Box 926794 Amman 11110, Jordan.
- Type:** Call for expressions of interest. Persons who are interested in having their name entered on a list of potential contractors are invited to submit their application in accordance with the rules set out below. The awarding department will draw up a list of candidates who meet the criteria set out in point 8 below. Each time a specific contract is to be concluded relating to the field, the awarding authority will send the specifications to some of the candidates on the list, selected on the basis of special criteria for the contract concerned.

- Description of the call for expression of interest:** Expressions of interest are sought from service providers from the European Community countries, Jordan, or from other countries benefiting from the MEDA programme with the capability to offer short-term consultancy services to Jordanian private sector enterprises. Service providers with experience in the following areas are required:

• Corporate Planning	• Marketing & Market Analysis	• Management Training
• Management Development	• Human Resources Development	• Production Line Management
• Packaging	• Technology Procurement	• Business Collaboration
• Product Design & Development	• Financial Systems & Management	• Business Information Services
• Productivity Improvement	• Accountancy & Finance / Credit	• Institutional Development
• Quality Control & Standards	• Companies & Commercial Laws	• Investment Promotion

Service providers may be generalists or have expertise in a particular sector. Expertise is required, inter alia, in the following sectors:

• Garments & Textiles	• Plastics & Chemicals	• Leather
• Agricultural Industry	• Pharmaceutical & Cosmetics	• Gifts & Toys
• Manufacturing	• Tourism & Hospitals	

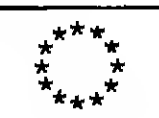
- Place of execution:** Jordan
- Expiry date of the list resulting from the call for expressions of interest:** April 01, 2001
- Not Applicable.**
- Address to which applications should be sent:** Applications, comprising one original and one copy, must be sent by post (normal, registered, or express) in an envelope stating "Call for expressions of interest No. IB/AMI/344" to the address in (1) above. Companies or grouping of companies or service providers are required to provide the documents referred to in point 8.

Information to be supplied by candidates:

- extract from the Judicial record or equivalent document (for the self-employed),
- certificate demonstrating that the applicant is in order with obligations regarding tax and social security payments,
- certificate of enrolment on the professional register or the trade register,
- the company's balance sheet or overall turnover from the past three years (for legal persons),
- references of services provided and the value of these services over the past three years,
- statement of average annual staff numbers for managerial staff over the past three years,

Appropriate service providers will be those with experience in countries similar to Jordan and with excellent knowledge of modern management practice, relevant international standards for their areas of specifications, a good knowledge of European as well as international markets and have excellent communication skills.

- Contract covered by EC Council Regulation No. 1448/96 of 23/07/1996 (MEDA).**



EURO-JORDANIAN • BUSINESS SERVICE TEAM



INVITATION TO PRIVATE SECTOR ENTERPRISES IN JORDAN

The Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team invites private enterprises to participate in the Private Sector Development Programme. The primary purpose of this three-year Programme, launched under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, is to promote the growth of market economy in Jordan by providing direct assistance to private businesses within virtually all sectors of production and services.

The Programme is financed by the European Union through the MEDA line in agreement and co-operation with the Government of Jordan. The main component of the Programme is the Business Support Service, which offers direct expert consultancy assistance to individual enterprises based on individual assessment of needs. No direct loans or grant facilities are included in the Programme. Due to financial and time constraints participation is limited.

Private enterprises wishing to participate in this Programme must conform to the following criteria for eligibility to receive assistance:

Eligibility Criteria

- Registered private Jordanian legal entity
- Jordanian ownership majority
- Manufacturing or service
- Documented sustained activity over time
- Sustainable financial situation
- More than 10 and less than 200 employees
- Certified financial accounts
- Willingness to share costs at moderate level
- Managerial analytical capabilities

In order to facilitate the process of application the following establishments have been kind enough to avail the application forms and relevant information on the Programme at their offices:

• Jordan Export Development & Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO)	Tel: 5603507	Fax: 5684568
• The Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC)	Tel: 5531081	Fax: 5521084
• Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI)	Tel: 4843001	Fax: 4847852
• The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FCC)	Tel: 5684425	Fax: 5685997
• Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA)	Tel: 5680855	Fax: 5680663
• Jordan Trade Association (JTA)	Tel: 5685603	Fax: 5685605
• Jordan Business & Professional Women Club (JBPCW)	Tel: 5611647	Fax: 5630092

The information and forms can also be obtained from the Delegation of the European Commission in Amman, or the Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team at the following addresses:

Delegation of the European Commission
Shmeisani, 15 Al-Jaheth St.
Tel: +962-6-5668191
Fax: +962-6-5686746
e-mail: eudelfor@go.com.jo

Euro-Jordanian • Business Service Team
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle - Muhamed Hafiz Maath St.
P. O. Box: 182938 - Amman 11118, Jordan
Tel: +962-6-4654050
Fax: +962-6-4652374
e-mail: bst@index.com.jo

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.
 جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
 ABDUL SALAM TARAWNEH

Vice Chairman & Director General:
 MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
 GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
 Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: 5696183
 E-mail: jotimes@go.com.jo

Web Sites: http://accessme.com/JordanTimes/

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Little hope for London talks

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in London today for talks that are certain to irrevocably alter the direction of the peace process. The positions of the two sides are well known: Arafat has publicly accepted a U.S. proposal for a 13 per cent Israeli redeployment from the West Bank, while Netanyahu maintains that Israel's security interests would be endangered by a pullout in the double digit percentage. Both insist that these numbers are not subject to negotiation.

What the talks have been set up to be, then, is a test of nerves, of who will blink first. And if neither side backs down, then the last remaining option for the Palestinians are the Americans. The question of this entire exercise is, will the U.S. finally put pressure on Israel? All indications are that they won't.

The U.S. proposal for a 13 per cent withdrawal was never published, for fear on the part of the Americans of antagonising the Israelis. The Oslo accords were vague on the size of the Israeli redeployments but not on their number. Three were to be carried out before final status negotiations start. Yet Israel's new plan, and that of the U.S. as well, stipulate only two. The Americans have also failed to obtain Israeli agreement on a settlement construction "freeze" and notably, the U.S. Congress last month came out overwhelmingly in favour of the Israeli position, gently "suggesting" to President Clinton to urge the Palestinians to accept whatever is offered to them.

The positions of the two leaders are clear. Netanyahu is under pressure from his cabinet, his constituents, and his own former promises, not to hand back land to the Palestinians. He will be under no pressure from the Americans. Arafat, on the other hand, is faced with a growing discontent from his people, who have been bogged down in a peace process that has delivered little in nearly four years. And unlike the countless times the U.S. has come out publicly in support of Israel, it has never done the same for the Palestinians.

There is no need for the Israeli government to speed up negotiations. Netanyahu has taken the clue from Yitzhak Shamir, who stated that if he had remained prime minister, he would have dragged negotiations out for 10 years while settling a half-million Jewish "souls" in the West Bank. In addition, he has put the Palestinian National Authority on an endless loop, demanding that unspecified steps be taken to curb extremist activity.

Time, however, is of the essence for Arafat. The only way out of the seemingly endless cycle of violence and mutual recriminations is for President Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and the rest of the administration to stand up, stop being "pessimistic" on the talks, and put the screws to Israel, for once, to honour its agreements.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Munes Razzaz Sunday said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proved to be stronger than the sole superpower now ruling the world through his actions and his behaviour of defying the world and disregarding the United Nations as well as the U.S. It would not be surprising if we hear Netanyahu demanding that the Arab World withdraw from 91 per cent of the present lands under the Arab countries' control so that Israel's empire can be built, said the writer. He said Netanyahu is the only statesman who can slap America in the face without having to fear any reprisal, he is the only government leader in the world who has insulted the world community and the United Nations without fearing any sanctions and he is the only politician in the world who alone can steer the U.S. in a way to serve Zionist objectives. Unlike Saddam Hussein who cannot say "no" to the U.S. even in matters related to his people's survival, the writer said, Netanyahu can mock any attempt by the U.S. to pressure Israel into complying with the requirements of peace.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Riyad Hrouh said that last month government departments and public institutions were closed for half a month but nothing is done to compensate for the loss of work and production. He said the holidays of Adha, the new Muslim year, Labour Day and Easter amounted almost to half of the days of the past month. According to the writer school and university students have nothing to do in these holidays and the daily paid workers cannot earn a living during the holidays and in addition the private sector which is the key factor for the country's economy lies idle during holidays which are so many in Jordan every year. He said he opposes the two-day weekend except if they were on Saturdays and Sundays otherwise, and if the government opts for Thursdays and Fridays Jordan will be cut off from the rest of the world for four consecutive days, something which can by no means contribute to Jordan's development.

Economic Review

Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Privatisation debate continues

PRIVATISATION CONTINUES, and rightfully so, to be a hot issue that is debated at all levels. Economic writers, among others, seem to favour many different approaches; alas, some of the debate remains incoherent and muddled (possibly due to the infusion of misinformation or the use of garbled arguments which lack in theoretical economic training). However, arguments of the antagonists of privatisation can be summarised in six main points, which are addressed herein.

"Privatisation will push public sector workers into the streets." There are several schemes and methods for nullifying this claim. Some countries have offered generous severance schemes; others have offered shares to employees; and others provided training to employees to facilitate their gainful and willful employment elsewhere. Jordan can apply a mix of these policies. In the telecommunications sector, the hub of Jordan's privatisation programme, all employees were guaranteed a no-job-loss policy during privatisation.

"Privatisation is just a method for politicians and their relatives and acquaintances to get rich at the expense of the public." Competitive bidding in the most transparent manner is of the utmost importance for the credibility of any offering whether to national or foreign investors. Announcements should be made in full view of the media and citizens. In all fairness, so far, this has been the modus operandi in the Jordanian privatisation process, particularly in the case of the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC). There is, however, a need to design and implement wide-reaching and well-studied public-awareness campaigns to resolve any ambiguities that may drive wedges between

design and implementation which could delay the privatisation programme even more. Failure to do so could easily place Jordanian stocks in a less competitive position, particularly with the growing demand, regionally and globally, for international strategic investors.

"We should not accept the handing over of our precious assets to foreigners." There are several strategies that can be used to counter this fear. In Russia and the Czech Republic, two former Communist economies, privatisation vouchers were distributed to the people. But although such drastic measures were used in former hubs of socialism, no such measures are needed in Jordan. In Argentina, Chile and the U.K., initial public offers were made to the citizens of each country while making room for a strategic investor, thus allaying fears while reaping the benefits from importing advanced knowledge and foreign direct investment. Jordan can sell, in the case of the JTC, some shares to a strategic partner and then offer the remainder of the shares in the Amman Financial Market. This strategy would ensure that the offered shares would attract optimal prices and that knowledge with the latter being, contrary to the recent statements of some, is neither easy nor cheap to secure.

"The local private sector is too weak to operate without state enterprises." The recent market liberalisation drive in Jordan ensures that the market is capable of handling such transfers, particularly with the existence of strategic partnerships and investments. Replacing debt with investment is a win-win policy that is far superior to maintaining inefficient organisations that would burden the state and the taxpayer, either presently or in the near future.

"Privatisation will replace public

monopolies with private monopolies." This claim can be easily dealt with under the soon to be passed Antitrust Law, which is presently in an advanced drafting stage. Under the law, and given a transparent bidding process, there should be no room for private monopoly creation nor for the continuance of inefficiency in any form.

"Can't we just manage state enterprises better by having top Jordanian bureaucrats at their helms and avoid this painful remedy?" Unfortunately, the answer is no. Even with the most sincere of intents and the best of reforms, efforts by governments usually fail. Competitors simply find it unwise to compete with a government-owned incumbent. Promises of government to have a level playing field are usually not convincing enough to investors.

To win a game you must first be ensured that the referee is impartial, something which is hard to achieve when the referee decides to participate in the game. Also, according to the World Development Report 1993, the economic well-being of a majority of state firms that were reformed by their governments rather than privatised declined upon examination 10 years later. This finding renders a simple reform strategy an expensive undertaking even for the rich countries.

All the above are common criticisms of privatisation. They represent legitimate fears that policy makers and planners should address and answer. Privatisation is accepted worldwide, let us not make Jordan the exception. Those who want to argue against it should really study the issue and avoid hapless rhetoric. In the case of privatisation, the early bird catches the worm. Let us not wait too long.

Drawing appropriate lessons from the Asia crisis

By Michel Camdessus

WASHINGTON — The financial crisis in East Asia has been very challenging, but perhaps we still face the greatest challenge of all — to draw the appropriate lessons from this experience and act on them.

Recent events have prompted a great deal of reflecting and soul-searching — both within the IMF and among the governments that are our shareholders — about what more could be done to prevent such crises, how to deal more effectively with those that arise and how, in general, we could make the fund an even more effective institution.

The primary focus of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is on sound money, prudent fiscal policies and open markets. We must maintain that emphasis because those are the prerequisites for economic growth and financial stability. Yet I believe that we must broaden the scope of our concerns to include other elements that, in a globalised world, are also important in achieving these goals.

They include creating a more level playing field for the private sector by dismantling monopolies and setting up simpler, more transparent regulatory systems; stronger banking systems that protect small depositors' savings and are freed from government intervention in the allocation of credit, so that they can channel it not just to a favoured few but to those who will use it productively, and reductions in unproductive government spending, such as costly military buildups, prestige projects and subsidies and guarantees to favoured sectors and firms.

The new elements would also include higher and more cost-effective spending on primary health care and education; adequate social protection for the poor, unemployed and other vulnerable groups; environmental protection; greater transparency and accountability in govern-

ment and corporate affairs, and a more effective dialogue with labour and the rest of civil society to increase political support for adjustment and reform, and to ensure that all segments benefit from the resumption of growth while core labour rights are protected.

The crisis in Asia has underscored the importance of these elements. Indeed, in many respects they are the bedrock of the programmes we are supporting in the region. But our concerns about

capital, we must encourage them to liberalise capital flows in a prudent and properly sequenced way that will maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of freer capital movements. Work is under way on an amendment to the IMF's charter that would make the liberalisation of capital movements one of the purposes of the fund and extend its jurisdiction to such movements.

Fourth, we must continue to pursue good governance and intensify the

... we must continue to pursue good governance and intensify the fight against corruption. Our approach is to encourage countries to maximise the transparency of government operations and thus minimise the opportunities for special favours.

these issues do not begin and end in Asia. We are emphasising these points in many other member countries as well because we think we can, and should, do more about them.

What about crisis prevention? This will not be an easy task, but already there are a number of good ideas on the table:

• First, we must continue to encourage countries to improve the quality of information that they make available to the IMF and the public.

• Second, we must find ways to strengthen domestic financial systems by improving domestic regulation and supervision and increasing financial sector transparency. Over the past year or so, the IMF has helped develop a set of "best practices" in the banking area, so that practices that have worked well in some countries can be adapted to and applied in others.

We are now disseminating these best practices around the world through our policy dialogues with member countries.

• Third, as we push even harder for trade liberalisation, and as nations open their economies to foreign

investment, we must encourage them to liberalise capital flows in a prudent and properly sequenced way that will maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of freer capital movements. Work is under way on an amendment to the IMF's charter that would make the liberalisation of capital movements one of the purposes of the fund and extend its jurisdiction to such movements.

Fourth, we must continue to pursue good governance and intensify the

fight against corruption. Our approach is to encourage countries to maximise the transparency of government operations and thus minimise the opportunities for special favours.

Looking ahead, I think that the crisis in Asia will be a watershed, convincing many members of the benefits of greater transparency. This will enable the fund to become more open in the future, an objective I very much support, even if we are dependent on the consent of our members.

The more vexing question is whether the IMF should blow the whistle on a country it thinks is heading for a crisis. The danger, of course, is that our predictions may not

always be right. Moreover, our warnings could provoke the very crises we are trying to prevent. It is far better for market participants to come to their own conclusions. That is why we have set up standards to guide members in releasing reliable data to the public, along with an Internet bulletin board so that the public can track the practices of individual countries.

The international community cannot realistically expect to avert every potential financial or economic crisis. So what else can be done to ensure that future trouble can be handled effectively?

Certainly, better ways need to be found to involve the private sector in official efforts to resolve debt crises and avoid the problem of moral hazard, perhaps through orderly mechanisms for settling and restructuring debts. Countries should also be encouraged to strengthen the laws and institutions covering debtor-creditor relations, including domestic insolvency laws.

In addition, we need to enhance the effectiveness of multilateral institutions, which includes, of course, ensuring that they have sufficient resources and personnel of the highest calibre to do their jobs.

The IMF cannot perform a central role in crisis prevention or management — or do its part in addressing financial problems that exceed the capacity of individual countries to resolve alone and in a way that shares the burden fairly — unless it has adequate resources.

There are still major risks in the world economy. Thus it is a matter of concern that the IMF's usable funds have dropped to a level that leaves it little room for manoeuvre to respond to a new crisis.

The writer is managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

— International Herald Tribune

Responsibility should accompany rights

By Dr. Waleed M. Sadi

MUCH HAS been said on the projected 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a historic event that must not pass without proper commemoration. Different countries, societies, cultures and religions are thinking of different ways to mark the occasion in line with their own perspectives, priorities and needs. It is generally thought that the declaration was a Western oriented document, articulated and drafted in the image of the Western culture. The accent in the declaration, it is often stated, is on civil and political rights of individuals at the expense of other rights, notably economic, social and cultural rights. Some

lective human rights that find expression in such domains as self-determination, law and order, economic, social and cultural rights should not be sacrificed at the altar of the civil and political rights of individuals.

There are certain core or basic human rights which deserve attention ahead of others. Not all human rights are equal even though human rights are indivisible for all intents and purposes. Yet human rights come in different "sizes" and this reflects their order of importance. The right to life, for example, comes ahead of all other human rights since without life there can be no enjoyment of all other rights. Under this right comes the protection from summary and extrajudicial

... the 50th anniversary of the declaration is not only an occasion to celebrate the advent of human rights but also an opportunity to make amends where necessary on the existing human rights order so that an equitable balance can be struck between the various categories of human rights to the satisfaction of all societies, cultures and religions.

executions, torture and ill or inhuman treatment. The right to safe food, water, clean air, and housing certainly come next. The right to education is also a high priority human right because without it many other rights would be interfered with and violated. The right to development including the right to work and earn a substantive livelihood are also very basic human rights. The equal treatment of women is now ascending in importance due to its organic link with so many other rights that cannot be realised or enjoyed without its promotion and protection. The way we treat our children, whether at home or at school, is also a pressing human right. Child abuse and exploitation is rampant in so many societies even those which enjoy high standards of development. Any society which still suffers from child abuse in all its forms cannot claim to have attained a good human rights record. On the edge of these rights and related rights peoples can hope to enjoy political and civil rights including of course self-determination, freedom of expression, fair trials, election of their representatives and scores of other related rights.

The big question that remains is: Which rights come first. To put it in another way: Should one set of rights be placed in a state of limbo until the other set is realised. The U.N. system works on the assumption that civil and political rights can be put into practice immediately, whereas economic, social and cultural rights can only be progressively attained. A state need not be developed economically, it is being said, in order to prohibit torture. On the other hand, without economic development a state cannot afford to have a proper court system or sophisticated security forces that can perform their duties without resorting to duress. These postulations are now ripe for questioning, in anticipation of the correct answers based on empirical evidence.

Features

Tell el-Fukh

SCANDINAVIAN AND American archaeologists excavating the site of Tell el-Fukh in north Jordan have uncovered the remains of a town that was settled almost continuously throughout the first 3,000 years of humankind's early urbanisation — from the Early Bronze Age to the Hellenistic era. Tell el-Fukh, the mound of pottery, is located alongside the Wadi Shalbala some 11 kilometres north-east of Irbid, near the important Early Bronze Age site of Khirbet Zarqan. The four seasons of excavations in 1990-1997, by a predominantly Scandinavian team headed successively by Dr. Magnus Ottosson and John Strange, have provided valuable new information about several pivotal aspects of ancient life in the region — most notably, the Bronze Age monumental public architecture, international trade links and cultural interaction in antiquity, and the Late Bronze and Iron Age pottery and glass finds are particularly important for the archaeology of Jordan and the region because they constitute "the first long-term stratified sequence from this region," says project scientist Dr. Patrick McGovern, from the University of Pennsylvania (USA). The analysis of the material reveals "local industrial developments and the foreign relations of Tell el-Fukh," McGovern says.

Rich environment

The rich environment of the site comprises the wadi, rivers, rain-fed agriculture.

Chicken-h

By Peretz Kidron

WEST JERUSALEM — "She's not looking," Benjamin Netanyahu said. "She's on the defence." The prime minister offered his sight after reading reports from U.S. and Israeli leaders on a confidential brief- ing from Madeleine Albright, where the secretary of state reportedly pressed profound "exasperation" at Israel's effective rejection of U.S. peace proposals and sought to calm her listeners to exercise their discretion on Netanyahu to render him the forthcoming.

Her long experience in overseeing Israel's relations with the United States, few can equal Netanyahu's dis- crepancy regarding the undertones emanating from Washington. In this case too, he was swift to read the ostensibly "tough" lan- guage Albright used and detect an attempt to put its full force behind proposals for a "sub- stantial" withdrawal in the West Bank. As he said, the Americans have no such wish for a fight with the Netanyahu government.

Coming after months of gloomy foreboding, Netanyahu's con- viction that the Americans are behind a plot to attempt to ram through their proposal for a hand-over of 13 per cent of West Bank territory to the Palestinian (National) Authority, is now common knowledge. Nevertheless, U.S. hesi- tancy of the year in repeated pos- sibilities of their formal publica- tion, White Albright fulminated about "impudence" over the failure of Netanyahu's reneging on previous promises to gain cabinet approval for a "prime" two-digit withdrawal — a "prime" minister guested that the administration would not after all side with a constant barrage of domestic

Gamble pays off

was a political gamble on his part. Netanyahu's assessment on this vital issue could cost him his office. The same effort of supporters rather than the defection of the Labour Party, the stalled peace process and a constant barrage of domestic

Tell el-Fukhar dig in north Jordan unearths 3,000 years of early urbanism, international trading and cultural contacts

SCANDINAVIAN AND American archaeologists excavating the site of Tell el-Fukhar in north Jordan have uncovered the remains of a town that was settled almost continuously throughout the first 3,000 years of humankind's earliest urbanism — from the Early Bronze Age to the Hellenistic era. Tell el-Fukhar ("the mound of pottery") is located alongside the Wadi Shallah some 11 kilometres north-east of Irbid, near the important Early Bronze Age site of Khirbet Zarqun. The four seasons of excavations in 1990-1993, by a predominantly Scandinavian team headed successfully by Drs. Magnus Ottosson and John Strange, have provided valuable new information about several pivotal aspects of ancient life in this region — most notably, Late Bronze Age monumental public architecture, international trade links and cultural interaction in antiquity, and the Late Bronze/Iron and Late Iron/Hellenistic transitions.

The Bronze and Iron Age pottery and glass finds are particularly important for the archaeology of Jordan and the region because they constitute "the first long-term stratified sequence from this region," says project ceramist Dr. Patrick McGovern, from the University of Pennsylvania (USA). The analysis of the materials reveals "local industrial developments and the foreign relations of Tell el-Fukhar," McGovern says.

Rich environment

The rich environment of the site comprises the wadi waters, rain-fed agricul-

al lands and oak forests, and irrigated cultivation of olives and fruit trees. The immediate area was quite heavily settled in antiquity, and today sports the remains of Tell el-Fukhar, Khirbet Zarqun (primarily an Early Bronze Age site), and the unexcavated sites of Tell Umm er-Riglen (with surface pottery evidence of occupation from primarily the Late Bronze Age and the Late Iron Age through to the early Islamic era), and Tell el-Subba (Chalcolithic and Iron IIC-Persian pottery).

The ancient identity of Tell el-Fukhar remains unknown, though a plausible candidate is the town of Zarqu that is named in the 14th Century B.C. Amarna letters. Zarqu was located between Pella in the north Jordan Valley foothills and Ashtaroth in southern Syria.

First visited and sherded in the mid-1960s by the German scholar, Dr. Siegfried Mittmann (who later excavated Khirbet Zarqun), Tell el-Fukhar was first systematically mapped and inspected in the late 1980s-early 1990s. It revealed a large walled town dominated by an "acropolis" measuring 80 x 100 metres, with wall lines visible on the surface of the ground. The excavations showed the earliest evidence of human use of the site to be some surface pottery sherds from the Early Bronze IB period (c. 3150-3000 B.C.), which probably came from a settlement as yet unexcavated, or from people passing through the site.

More solid evidence from the next historical period, includes walls, fine stone-paved floors, basalt mortars

imbedded in a floor, and a post-hole (probably for a pillar to support a ceiling). All from the EB II-III period (c. 2900-2300 B.C.). The EB II-III pottery, such as bowls, jars, juglets, and amphoriskoi, is similar to that of all Palestine at that period. After a probable gap in the settlement during the EB IV period (2300-2000 B.C.), the Middle Bronze Age (c. 2000-1500 B.C.) was represented only by some possible wall remains, sherds from cooking pots, and a burial of two skeletons accompanied by wheel-made polished ceramic vessels, probably from the early part of the MB era.

Important Late Bronze city

The Late Bronze Age provided the most spectacular finds from Tell el-Fukhar, notably a large public building that Dr. Strange believes must be either a temple or, more probably, a palace. The town at this time was surrounded by a massive city wall on the north, with remains of a city gate to the east at the point of easiest access to the plateau.

The partial excavation of the large building showed it to be at least 25 metres long. Its 1.5-metre-thick walls were built of mud-bricks on top of stone foundations that were 1.5 metres high. Repairs to the outer walls and several thick white plaster floors indicate several phases of use for the building.

The excavated rooms were filled with some two metres of destruction materials, comprising, burnt bricks, charred oak roof beams, and other materials

that suggested the structure had two stories. The entrance at the north included an outer paved courtyard linked to the inside through a staircase with five steps.

International trade contacts

The objects and materials found inside this large building confirmed the town's international trading contacts during the Late Bronze Age, including Greece (Mycenae) and Cyprus. The finds comprised pottery objects such as a large collared-rim storage jar or pithos measuring over one metre high; a unique blue-green glazed pottery knob, a fragment from a blue-green glazed pottery jar or bottle, and other "heirlooms" from the previous LBI period (16th-15th Centuries B.C.); a bronze lamp; a blue-green glazed faience bottle and bowl; and a moulded glass pendant in the shape of a female figurine representing a nude, pregnant goddess (common in the Near East during the 16th-15th Centuries B.C.), that is among the earliest known moulded glass pieces in the world. Stylistic and chemical analysis of the glass pendant and the glazed ceramic and faience items suggest a source in northern Mesopotamia, McGovern says.

Below the courtyard of the building was found a small fragment of a crucible or furnace, with remains of what seems to be reworked copper slag. Whether and when such metal smelting took place here, and for what purposes, remains to be determined.

The large building was destroyed in the 13th Century B.C., at the end of the Late Bronze Age, but it continued to be used in the Iron Age — and thus it provides valuable insights into the transition from the Bronze to the Iron Ages in this region.

The Iron Age town

The ruins of the large Late Bronze building were temporarily occupied at first, but later in the Early Iron Age the site was rebuilt into a more permanent settlement. The town wall along the north was rebuilt in the Late Bronze Age-Iron I transition, and the remains of Early Iron Age houses were found built up against the wall. Among the Early Iron Age excavated remains were ovens made from recycled collar-rim jars: the bases of the large jars were cut off, the necks of the upside-down vessels were inserted into the ground, and a stoking hole was made by breaking off part of the side wall.

An imported Philistine pottery sherd in the Iron Age level indicated that the occupation of the site "continued into the Late Iron IB period," Dr. Strange said. The evidence of contacts with Gaza also sheds new light on regional trading links in this period.

The site seems to have been temporarily abandoned after the Iron I period, perhaps for some 400 years, for the excavations showed no signs of human use until the Iron IIC-Persian period (c. 650-350 B.C.). The evidence from this period includes building remains, and more than 20 deep, stone-lined silos

or bins for storage of grain and other foodstuffs (though all were found empty and did not indicate their original contents). The pottery from this period is "remarkably similar to that found in the Amman region," McGovern notes, but imported items included pottery from Cyprus and Phoenicia.

The little known transition from the Late Iron IIC-Persian to the Hellenistic period is also well documented at Tell el-Fukhar. From the Hellenistic period (starting c. 332 B.C.) the site shows the remains of a fine villa comprising 16 rooms arranged around a central courtyard; in some places the remains of Late Iron-Persian walls served as foundations for the Hellenistic structure. The building is well dated by the pottery remains, which include locally produced Hellenistic shapes that derive from Iron IIC-Persian pottery, and fine Hellenistic tableware from the 3rd Century B.C. One copper coin found embedded in the floor of a room was inscribed "PTOLEMAIOS BASILEUS," which dates it to the reigns of either Ptolemy III (246-221 B.C.) or Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-203 B.C.).

The substantial pottery from this period will help to develop a more firm chronology for ceramics during the Iron IIC-Persian-to-Hellenistic transition, Dr. Strange said. This in turn could help to better date other structures and settlements in Jordan from the Ptolemaic era, which is poorly documented throughout the country.

After the Hellenistic period, the site of Tell el-Fukhar was never again used for a permanent settle-

ment, hosting only the occasional squatter or the itinerant nomad, some of whom buried their dead there. The most recent noteworthy historical episode, according to local accounts recounted to Dr. Strange, was a battle in 1932 fought between local residents from Ramtha and bedouins from the outlying areas.

One of the most important findings of the neuron activation and petrographic analysis of the pottery at Tell el-Fukhar has been that most of the pottery during every major historical period was manufactured in the vicinity of the site, using alluvial clay deposits in the adjacent Wadi el-Shallah.

Pottery from south Palestine

The single most important source of imported pottery from the Middle Bronze IIA through the entire Iron Age periods was southern Palestine — from Gaza to Asqalon — though nothing from this region appeared to have reached this north Jordan settlement in the preceding EB II-III periods. The scholars studying the materials are now trying to determine if the south Palestine pottery was exported to north Jordan as empty vessels, reached there loaded with exports, was brought by travellers who left it behind, or came with people from south Palestine who moved permanently to Tell el-Fukhar. Other sources of pottery imports include Affuleh



town in the Jezreel Valley in north Palestine, the Baq'ah Valley north of Amman, the Nile Valley in Egypt, eastern Cyprus, Rhodes, Mycenae in central Greece, and probably the Cilician plain in south Anatolia.

This kind of integration of ancient north Jordan into the wider Middle East shows that Tell el-Fukhar maintained long-range regional trading contacts with key centres of civilisation in the region, including Egypt, Greece, Palestine, Cyprus, and probably south Anatolia — and perhaps shared in their prosperity as they enjoyed economic expansion. This is a very different picture from the relatively isolated, sparsely inhabited site today.

The fieldwork at Tell el-Fukhar has been completed for the moment, in order to concentrate on analysis and publication of the materials. The work was financed mainly by the Nordic Research Council (NOS-H) and H.P. Hjerl-Hansen Mindefondet for Dansk Palaestinaforskning, with support from the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, Yarmouk University, Uppsala University (Sweden), the University of Copenhagen, Ramboell, Hanne-mann and Hoejgaard, Ltd., Danmarks Nationalbank, the Theological Faculty of Copenhagen, Consul-General Einar Hoeyvald, Fond, and J.L-Fondet.

Chicken-hearted America: betrayal of the forces of peace

By Peretz Kidron

WEST JERUSALEM — "She's not attacking," Benjamin Netanyahu noted shrewdly, "she's on the defensive." The prime minister offered his insight after reading reports from U.S. Jewish leaders on a confidential briefing from Madeleine Albright, where the secretary of state reportedly expressed profound "exasperation" with Israel's effective rejection of U.S. peace proposals and sought to recruit listeners to exercise their influence on Netanyahu to render him more forthcoming.

After long experience in overseeing Israel's relations with the United States, few can equal Netanyahu's discernment regarding the undertones behind official pronouncements emanating from Washington. In this instance too, he was swift to read through the ostensibly "tough" language Albright used and detect an absence of resolve on the part of the Clinton administration to put its full weight behind proposals for a "substantial" withdrawal in the West Bank. In a nutshell, the Americans have no stomach for a fight with the Netanyahu government.

Coming after months of gloomy predictions of an "inevitable" confrontation with the U.S., Netanyahu is now convinced that the Americans will stop short of an attempt to ram through their proposal for a hand-over of 13.1 per cent of West Bank territory to the Palestinian [National] Authority. U.S. proposals for reviving the peace process are now common knowledge; nevertheless, U.S. hesitancy has been evident since the beginning of the year in repeated postponements of their formal publication. While Albright fulminated about her "impatience" over the failure of the parties to make the tough decisions — her code term for Netanyahu's reneging on previous pledges to gain cabinet approval for a "substantial" two-digit withdrawal — the prime minister guessed that the administration would not after all publicly condemn Israeli intransigence.

Gamble pays off

It was a political gamble on his part, for a mistaken assessment on this vital point could cost him his office, through defection of supporters rather than the lame efforts of the Labour opposition. The stalled peace process evokes a constant barrage of domestic

criticism, Labour and the other opposition parties drawing powerful support from the non-party Council for Peace and Security, a dovish association embracing hundreds of retired senior officers from the army, police and security services.

In a full-page advertisement bearing several hundred signatures of reserve officers ranking from major to general, the council proclaimed that "peace with the Palestinians is vital for Israel's security, and should not be foregone in an argument over percentages." The statement expressly supported a withdrawal of "10-13 per cent" that would renew the peace process "without harm to Israeli security." Warning that "the window of opportunity is closing," the signatories urged the government to act "without further delay" to achieve a peace settlement. Without confidence-building steps, the statement concludes, an imposed settlement is inevitable.

Under normal circumstances, a declaration from such a prestigious body should have a major impact on the controversy over the American proposals, strongly reinforcing opposition calls for efforts towards an understanding with the Palestinians. But Netanyahu seems to reckon that such opinions — however authoritative — exercise no major bearing on the political balance. Contrary to a widespread view, Israelis no longer set their generals on a pedestal. In the paranoid climate Netanyahu deliberately fosters, the considered collective opinion of Israel's foremost military experts carries little weight with an inflated public opinion.

Netanyahu's brash self-confidence that he can see through the American bluff even makes him willing to risk disagreements with moderate sections of his own coalition, as evidenced by his apparent indifference to stern warnings from the small Third Way Party. A delegation headed by Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned the prime minister that the party would not remain in a government "that is only interested in biding time" in relation to the peace process. The delegation also advised against fobbing the Palestinians off with worthless concessions in uninhabited areas. Third Way's platform stresses "separation between us and the Palestinians," requiring withdrawal from densely populated areas where friction is highest. But four successive meetings failed to sway the prime minister to bow to Third Way

demands, prompting the rather watery ultimatum.

It seems reckless on Netanyahu's part to ignore the Third Way threat. With only four Knesset members, the party's defection would not demolish his parliamentary majority. But such a pull-out would be a serious blow to the government's prestige and could — in theory at least — prompt other cabinet moderates, most notably Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, to implement long-standing threats to resign if Netanyahu continues to sabotage the peace process. But, as illustrated by the hollowness of Mordechai's threat — the three-month deadline the defence minister publicly set has meanwhile passed without any sign of an imminent walk-out — Netanyahu knows that he can ignore such political breast-beating as long as he can get away with his stalling tactics without incurring effective U.S. sanctions.

Netanyahu's brash self-confidence that he can see through the American bluff even makes him willing to risk disagreements with moderate sections of his own coalition, as evidenced by his apparent indifference to stern warnings from the small Third Way Party.

The prime minister is free to overlook parliamentary arithmetic as long as he is convinced that the pragmatists will not go through with their threats in the present public climate of indifference to the fate of the peace process. And Netanyahu is secure in the knowledge that, in the absence of clear and immediate proof that his policy places Israel in clear and immediate jeopardy, public opinion will not turn against him.

A junior minister in the Shamir government that held office in the late 1980s, Netanyahu can draw on that experience: in spite of enduring worldwide censure for its handling of the Palestinian intifada, the Likud-led coalition managed to cling to power till the end of its term. Only when it became evident that Shamir's foot-dragging at the Madrid peace conference was invoking immediate and tangible sanctions — in the form of U.S. refusal to grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees that Israel urgently needed

— did the political balance in the 1992 elections shift sufficiently to grant a narrow victory to Labour.

The pragmatic segments of the body politic — whether represented by a "centrist" party like the Third Way or corresponding sections of public opinion — have long been taught to discount frowns of censure from Washington as long as they were not backed up by tangible pressure. After the 1956 Sinai war, Prime Minister Ben Gurion ignored votes of censure from the United Nations and seemed set on retaining Israel's conquests until an outraged President Eisenhower joined the Soviets in delivering a clear ultimatum, whereupon no time was lost in pulling the IDF back across the border. In the early '70s, Golda Meir publicly scorned American peace plans, and it was only after the 1973 war, and the subsequent halt of U.S. military aid under the "revelation" proclaimed by President Ford,

process, are evidently not averse to some arm-twisting by the administration to squeeze the necessary concessions from Netanyahu. But the Clinton administration and Congress seem to be overawed by the shrill outcry of the hawkish right-wing minority among U.S. Jews.

Even if Clinton summons up the will for a tougher approach, Netanyahu is well versed in the tactics of fobbing off the Americans. While drumming up support in Congress, he hopes to tire the administration by delaying tactics. One such was the ingenious request to delay publication of the U.S. peace plan till after Israel's Independence Day, so as to avoid "marrying" the state's 50th anniversary. With the Jewish calendar rich in religious festivals and other significant dates, there is no shortage of pretexts for further postponement.

Winning either way

Netanyahu is following an "either-or" strategy, designed principally to safeguard his coalition majority. If his delaying tactics prove successful and the Americans back down from their proposal, his proven ability to "get away with it" will allow him to carry the Third Way and other waverers with him. Conversely, should the administration nevertheless prove insistent, his long and skilful defence will enable him to convince Greater Israel hardliners that some minimal concessions have to be offered. Either way, he has his coalition flanks securely covered. As he told an Italian interviewer in early April, if he is convinced that the American proposals "do not threaten our security, the coalition parties will accept them, because they know that I will never jeopardise security." With stunning self-confidence, he declared that he will "make peace with the Palestinians and all our neighbours," claiming that he alone is capable of doing so.

A similar "heads I win tails you lose" strategy is evident in the prime minister's unexpected initiative for a withdrawal from the "security zone" in southern Lebanon. In a surprise move designed equally to silence domestic criticism of the heavy toll taken by the unending clashes with Hizbollah and offer the Americans a sop whereby they can continue to believe in his peaceful intentions, the prime minister procured unanimous cabinet approval for acceptance of Security Council Resolution 425, passed in March 1978. But endorse-

ment of a 20-year-old call for an unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory was tagged with conditions designed to make the initiative unacceptable, by requiring Lebanon to take responsibility for border security but without a concomitant peace treaty between the two countries.

Here too, Netanyahu hopes to gain either way. If, by some miracle, he can induce the Lebanese government to go along with his conditions, he would draw it into a rift with the Syrians, leaving Damascus isolated. If, as indeed occurred, his initiative is turned down firmly by both Lebanon and Syria, Israel scores a propaganda victory by proving its own peaceful intentions while showing up "Arab intransigence." Incidentally, he also accumulates ammunition to answer the growing ground swell of domestic discontent over Israel's involvement in Lebanon, as voiced by the grassroots "Four Mothers" movement and other groups calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the quaintly-named "security zone."

There is nothing new in Netanyahu's tactics, which are close replicas of techniques used by previous Israeli governments in their relations with the U.S. In view of the imbalance between the two "strategic allies," it is hardly surprising that the Israeli junior partner uses wiles and ruses to offset its weakness in relation to its heavyweight ally.

But the Americans show an astounding willingness to be taken in time and time again. It must be evident by now to the Clinton administration that it has the ability to punish Netanyahu's intransigence by demolishing his power-base. As Yitzhak Shamir learned to his cost, it would need little more than a few tangible signs of Washington's displeasure to isolate the hardliners and either create irresistible domestic pressure for a saner policy or bring down the present government and force early elections that would have the same outcome.

By proving too chicken-hearted to confront Netanyahu, the administration is abandoning and betraying potential allies awaiting no more than a sign from Washington to translate their vague threats into a concrete ultimatum that the prime minister would defy at his peril. Clinton's failure to give that signal amounts to an outright betrayal of the forces of peace, in Israel and throughout the region.

Real Quiet captures 124th Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE (AFP) — Real Quiet made a lot of noise down the stretch, holding off hard-charging Victory Gallop to win the 124th Kentucky Derby Saturday and give trainer Bob Baffert his second straight Derby triumph.

Ridden by Kent Desormeaux, the California-bred colt, nicknamed "the Fish" because Baffert says he looks better from the side than head-on, won for the third time in 13 career starts.

His last win was in the Hollywood Futurity as a two-year-old in December.

Real Quiet covered the 1 1/4 miles in 2:02 1/5. Victory Gallop, ridden by Alex Solis was second and Baffert-trained Indian Charlie, the pre-race favourite with Gary Stevens aboard, was third.

"I asked him to move forward and he really started reaching for the wire," Desormeaux said. "I was just hoping that nobody caught him. My first feeling was a feeling of shock. I wanted to laugh a little while then cry for a little while."

Desormeaux, the leading rider at the recently concluded Santa Anita meet, won the Derby for the first time. His best previous finish in the first jewel of the Triple Crown was third aboard Pleasant Tap in 1990.

Old Trieste and Rock and Roll led the field of 15 through the first quarter mile over a fast track in 22 2/5 seconds and the half mile in a swift 45 4/5.

Real Quiet saved ground on the rail as three quarters went in 1:10, but as the field turned for home, Desormeaux guided him to the outside where he flew by stablemate Indian Charlie and set his sights on the tiring leader Old Trieste.

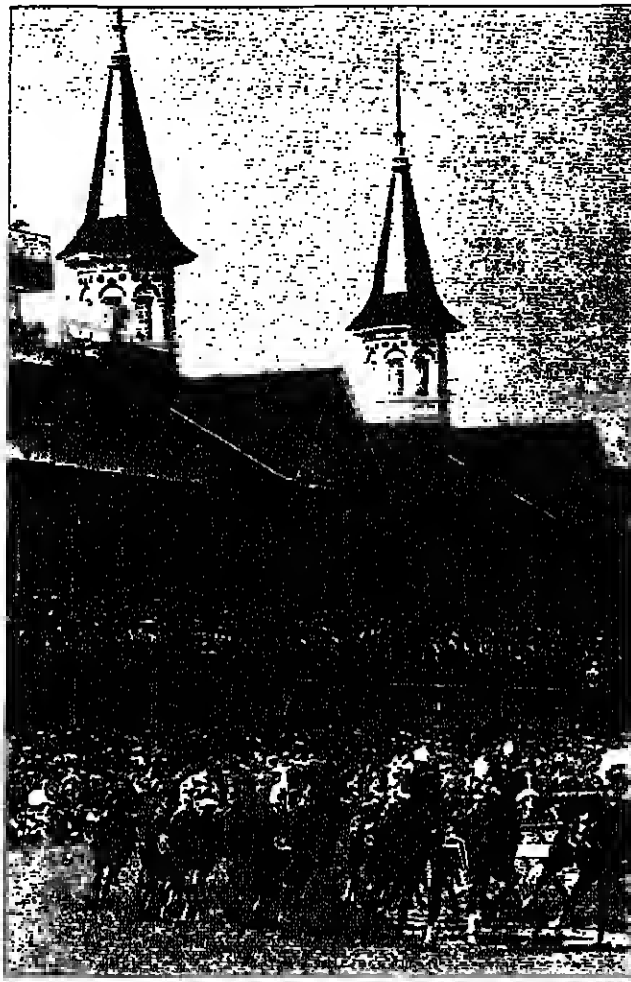
Real Quiet bounded through the stretch grabbing the lead at the 16th pole and survived a furious threat from Victory Gallop, to win by a half length.

Real Quiet was coming off second-place finishes in both the San Felipe Stakes and Santa Anita Derby.

The victory made Baffert the sixth trainer in Derby history to train back-to-back winners and second this decade. D. Wayne Lukas did it in 1995 with Thunder Gulch and in 1996 with Grindstone.

"Coming around the turn I thought Indian Charlie was in the perfect spot," said Baffert. "Then I saw the Fish make his move and I thought ... I couldn't believe it. They were in the right place at the right time. I wanted them to run 1-2-3 so bad."

Baffert saddled last year's winner Silver Charm, who



The field of horses in the 124th running of the Kentucky Derby make the first turn at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky (Reuters photo)



Kent Desormeaux celebrates winning the 124th running of the Kentucky Derby on Real Quiet at Churchill Downs. This is Desormeaux's first Derby win (Reuters photo)

he trained to the \$4 million Dubai Cup earlier this year. Baffert's 1996 entrant, Charm, was nosed out by Grindstone or he would have been gunning for his third straight Derby victory.

"It was emotional," Baffert said. "I never thought that after winning with Silver Charm that I would feel that kind of emotion again. But it gets better every time you win it."

Zeina Shaban joins national team in Cyprus tourney

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Zeina Shaban's quest for world domination received a further boost this week, as she accompanies the national Jordanian table tennis team to Cyprus for the Under-17 Cyprus International Tournament.

Shaban, one of the Kingdom's most promising young athletes, has dominated the Under-13 age group and has impressed fans and officials while competing against the Kingdom's longtime champions in open tournaments.

Joining Lina Majdalawi and Hadil Awwad, the Cyprus tournament should provide a good chance for the Jordanian girls to assess their standard against fellow Arab participants. Syria and Lebanon ahead of the next Pan-Arab Games held in Jordan.

As well as host-nation Cyprus, world No. 20, Greece, will also take part in the tournament.

Shaban will also accompany the national team to Moscow in mid-July, for the Under-17 World Championships, as a busy summer schedule commences in preparation for the 9th Pan-Arab Games scheduled for July 1999.

August will see the Jordanian table tennis players in action in Casablanca in Morocco for the Arab Table Tennis Championships, and in late September comes the big one: the World Championships in Osaka, Japan, before which the national team will spend two weeks at a training camp in Taipei.

(FURNISHED) ROOF
FOR RENT

Spectacular..

views

Shemisani

4th Level

Tel. 5863945

OR 5699672

Kaiserslautern enter Bundesliga history book

COLOGNE (AFP) — Two years after the most bitter moment in Kaiserslautern's history, the club celebrated its sweetest on Saturday by winning the German championship with a 4-0 victory over Wolfsburg.

Never before has a club enjoyed such a fairytale turnaround.

Relegated from the Bundesliga on the last day of the 1996 season, Kaiserslautern kept their squad largely intact and fought their way straight back into the top flight.

They then laid the groundwork for this stunning title win by beating the reigning champions Bayern Munich on the opening day of this season.

Bayern stuck doggedly to Kaiserslautern's heels but finally capitulated Saturday with a listless display in Duisburg, where a goalless draw ended their interest in the title race.

As Kaiserslautern slammed their four goals past Wolfsburg, including a pair by Olaf Marschall either side of the break, Bayern struggled and eventually ran out of puff.

The title is especially sweet for Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehagel because Bayern sacked him after only 10 months in the hot seat two years ago.

"In the last few weeks it was like in an 800-metre race when you are in the final straight and you ask yourself, 'can I do it, can't I do it?'" said Rehagel, twice a championship-winning coach at Werder Bremen.

"At the end I was pretty sure we could. I told the boys that as long as we control our own destiny and don't have to rely on other teams' results we can do it."

He particularly thanked veterans Miroslav Kadlec, the only remaining player from Kaiserslautern's last title win in 1991, and Andreas Brehme,

who is best remembered as the man who scored the penalty which crowned Germany as 1990 world champions.

Brehme did not play Saturday, as has been the case for most of the season, but Rehagel offered him any position on the field next week against Hamburg in the final game of the season.

Giovanni Trapattoni will now leave Bayern Munich after two seasons with the record of one title and one runners-up. He can add to that next month when Bayern play Duisburg again in the final of the German Cup, a chance to make up for Saturday's disappointment.

"We were very lethargic today. I had the feeling we didn't want to win. Maybe we were already convinced that the championship was lost and in Kaiserslautern's hands," Trapattoni explained.

He congratulated Kaiserslautern for a well-deserved title win, but also reflected on the difficulty he had in adapting to the German manner of playing football.

"It was difficult for me throughout the season to keep the players' minds on the job, unlike at other clubs I have coached," the Italian "maestro" said.

"The Germans have a different mentality. After all, we are still second. Strong teams like Leverkusen and Schalke and Stuttgart were our toughest opponents last season. But in this season they all dropped away after a certain point. That is not the case at home in Italy."

"There, teams tend to stay at the same level. But every country has its own characteristics."

Elsewhere, 35 years of first class football in Cologne appeared to have come to an end as the Rhineland club suffered their fifth consecutive defeat,

2-1 in the drizzle at tailenders Aachen.

Bielefeld.

Only a miracle can save Cologne, until now, have never been relegated.

All looked well when Dariusz Munteanu put them ahead in the minute but two goals after the break, ex-Cologne forward Uwe Fuchs sank his former employers.

Despite the win, Bielefeld's position was also sealed Saturday, as rivals Borussia Moenchengladbach 5-2 win over Hansa Rostock, Karlsruhe's 4-2 victory over Stuttgart.

"We know how Uwe Fuchs played with us and played for us. We let him take us apart with goals. After that of course we had four or five 100 percent chances of our own too," said devastated Cologne striker Toni Polster.

He added the disappointment was so deep he may end his football career after playing for Austria this summer at the World Cup.

"I'm sorry for Cologne. I will keep my fingers crossed for them," Fuchs shrugged as he realised what he had done to his old team.

Bayern Leverkusen's 31 game unbeaten streak at home came unstuck when Hertha Berlin beat them 1-0 after a second half penalty by Kjetil Andre Rekdal.

Schalke 04 played the last half hour with only nine men after Marco Kurz and Jiri Nemec were sent off within a matter of minutes as they lost 1-0 to 1860 Munich.

Werder Bremen, who were hovering near the bottom early in the season, beat Bochum 1-0 Saturday through Yuri Maximov's late goal and jumped to fourth.

Hingis in Hamburg final

HAMBURG (AP) — Top-ranked Martina Hingis cruised into the final of the German Grand Prix on Saturday and will meet second-seeded Jana Novotna for the clay-court title.

Hingis took just 51 minutes to dispatch Barbara Scheit 6-2, 6-2.

Novotna prevented a final showdown between two Swiss teen-agers when she rallied to beat Patty Schnyder 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Schnyder, 19, troubled the experienced Czech with her clever game that combined deft passing shots and powerful ground strokes.

After a rain delay of about 35 minutes, Schnyder broke Novotna's serve and won four games in a row to wrap up the first set.

Novotna broke Schnyder to serve for the second set but could not hold. She broke again for a 6-5 lead and then served out the second set to even the score. A key break in the seventh game of the third gave her the match.

Hingis, 17, dominated her Austrian opponent, who is ranked No. 34 in the world.

She brought her record for the year to 24-3. Hingis is seeking her third title of the year, after winning the Australian Open and in Indian Wells.

"I was surprised by how much top spin she was using in her game," Hingis said. "It was good not to stay out there too long."

"But I started playing faster and I started moving her a lot. I really have no problems on any surface. She began making a lot of mistakes at the end," Hingis said.

In the recent Fed Cup tie between Switzerland and the Czech Republic, Hingis beat Novotna in three sets.

Agassi and Enqvist brave weather for semi-final wins

MUNICH (AFP) — Andre Agassi waited through nearly five hours of rain delays before getting on court, but then fought through comfortably Saturday for a place in the final of the \$585,000 BMW Open.

The eighth-seeded American overcame heavy, chilly conditions following an afternoon of bad weather to defeat Spanish World No. 54 clay courtier Galo Blanco 6-4, 6-4 in their semi-final.

Agassi, 20th on the computer and winner of two titles this year, has the best win-loss record of 1998 on the ATP Tour. He played attacking tennis against Blanco in the pair's first meeting. The American winner will compete for the title on Sunday afternoon against seventh seed Thomas Enqvist.

He won an all-Swedish struggle 6-3, 6-4 over compatriot Magnus Gustafsson. The pair of semi-finals at the Iphitos club looked until the last minute like being postponed to Sunday morning. It was only in late afternoon that the skies cleared enough for both matches to get on court simultaneously.

"We've had every kind of condition this week," said Agassi. "When it rained on Tuesday, the court was almost like mud. It was heavy again today."

"It's tough on your preparation. You train a certain way and suddenly it's different during the match."

"My form is improving, but I can still improve. I don't want to expect too much, though. Getting into the final shows that my preparation is on course for the French Open."

World No. 21 Enqvist has never done well on clay but has shown surprising form this week in Munich. Gustafsson, 31st on the ATP Tour computer, won the tournament in 1991 and at 31 already owns a trophy in 1998.



Andre Agassi returns a ball to Galo Blanco from Spain during their semi-final match at the BMW Open in Munich. Agassi won the match 6-4 6-4 (Reuters photo)

Agassi has been particularly keen to play as many matches as possible, given that the fast Munich clay most approximates the faster surface to be found at Roland Garros.

Agassi, who turned 28 this week in the Bavarian capital, knocked out second seed Jonas Bjorkman to reach the semi-final as his 1998 comeback to form continued. Spain's Blanco won a quarter-final match which dragged for nearly three hours before beating Thomas Nydahl of Sweden on Friday but was not given the luxury of much time on court by the eager Agassi.

Agassi broke early in the first set against Blanco, a baseliner who was in his element on the clay made slow by moisture. Another break in the second sealed the trip to the title match. The defeat was Blanco's

second in a semi-final after losing in 1997 at Marbella to compatriot Albert Costa. Agassi will be playing in his fourth final of 1998 out of seven events this year. He won in San Jose and Scottsdale while losing in the Mercedes Super 9 in Key Biscayne to Marcelo Rios a month ago.

The two-time French Open finalist is playing in his first European claycourt final since 1991 Roland Garros where he lost to Jim Courier.

Agassi's last semi-final on clay was Atlanta in May 1995, against Michael Chang. Enqvist beat Gustafsson for the fifth time in his career against just two losses. The Swedish winner had a disappointing 1997, finishing outside the Top 10 for first time in two years due to injuries.

Sports



Ali Salameh (left) and Khaled Hart (right) in action during the Jordanian Handball Cup final (photo by Abdullah Ayoub)

Ahli beat Sal handball's Cup

By Roufan Nahhas and Khaled Hart
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Handball League Champions Ahli beat Salama in the Jordanian Handball Cup final Saturday evening.

The match, which was the 10th in the series, was a close contest, with Ahli leading 15-14 at the end of the first half.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals. Ahli's victory was a significant one, as they had lost the previous two finals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14. The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

The final was held at the Amman Sports Hall, and it was a very exciting match for the fans.

Ali Salameh and Khaled Hart were the top scorers for Ahli, each netting three goals.

Salama, who were the defending champions, were defeated 15-14.

The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

Masters Degree Programmes for Jordan

Gain a reputed

MBA

from

Sheffield Hallam University

while you work

The 6th largest University in the U.K. offers the most sought after distance learning MBAs in:

- FINANCE
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- MANAGEMENT
- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
- GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- Candidates are awarded the same qualifications as U.K.-based students.
- Assignment-based studies supported by local mentors and University tutors.

For further information contact:
Sheffield Hallam University,
P.O. Box 2184, Manama, State of Bahrain
Tel: (+973) 224240, 224252, 224265
Fax: (+973) 213101, 224241
Fax on Demand: +973 215897 (please call from a fax machine)
Email: mcgbah@batalco.com.bh
http://www.shu.ac.uk/education/courses/postgradmba.htm

<p>PHILADELPHIA '1'</p> <p>Robert De Niro & Sharon Stone ... in</p> <p>CASINO</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA '2'</p> <p>Yusra & Iham Shakiir ... in</p> <p>DANTELLA (ARABIC)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>The biggest cinema production</p> <p>TITANIC</p> <p>Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD '1'</p> <p>Kim Basinger ... in</p> <p>L.A. CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:15, 10:45</p> <p>CONCORD '2'</p> <p>ISMALIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>GALLERIA 2</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>TITANIC & One of Walt Disney's best movies</p> <p>FLUBBER</p>	<p>GALLERIA 1</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>GRAND OPENING</p> <p>TITANIC & SCREAM 2</p>
---	--	--	---	--	--

FOR RENT IN AL-RAB

Furnished or Unfurnished or Semi-furnished

Apartment

completing 1st floor. 400 sq.m.

Ground floor. 3 bedrooms.

Telephone 5510107

Furnished Flat For Rent

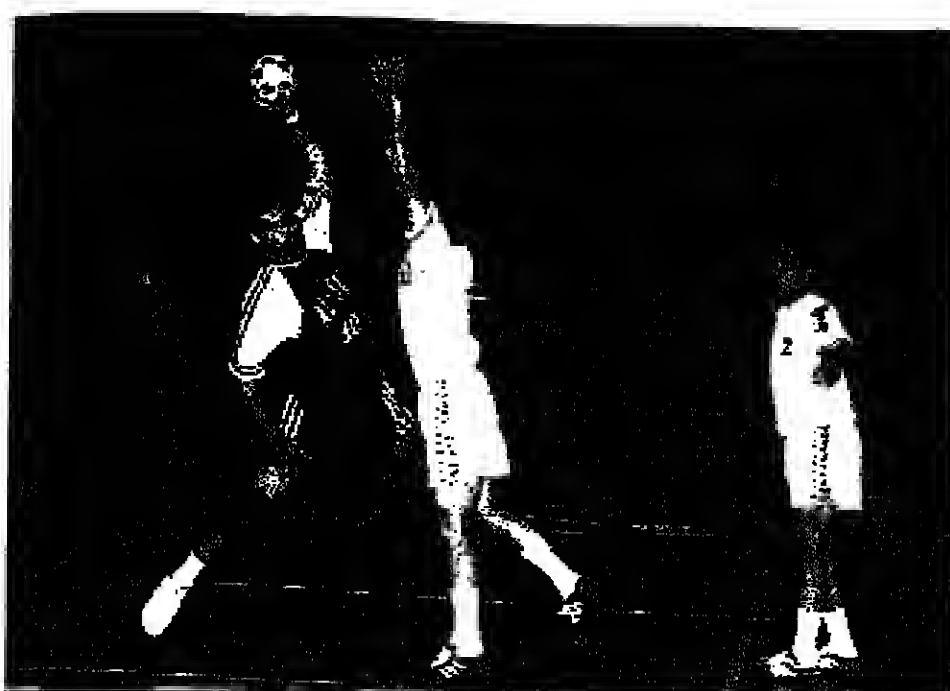
2 bedrooms, sitting, living and dining

separate heating and telephone. Located in

each in one floor, near Medina

please call 5346162.

A Furnished Villa at the 7th Circle is available for rent.



Al Salt's Qa'ed Daradkeh goes up for a shot against Al Ahli's defence in the Cup Winner's Cup (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

Ahli beat Salt in OT to win handball's Cup Winners' Cup

By Roufan Nahhas and Khaled Harb
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN— Handball League Champions Al Ahli regained the Cup Winners' Cup title after beating Jordan Cup Champions Al Salt 34-32 in overtime Saturday marking the beginning of the 1998 season.

Al Ahli fought bravely all through the match without their injured captain Mohammed Taha.

Ismael Bani Hani and Samer Hamarsheh were the winning ticket for the team who pressured their opponents in the first half ending it with a 15-9 lead.

Meanwhile, Al Salt seemed to lose their concentration and lost possession many times, while their attacks were stopped by Al Ahli's solid defence.

A dramatic second half for Al Ahli could have ended the match without resorting to overtime.

Al Ahli took advantage of Al Salt's scattered defence before the latter awoke and started to battle Al Ahli's defence.

The last minute witnessed Al Salt's determination to stay in contention with one point needed for a tie at 28-27.

With seconds to go, Al Salt's Iraqi player Amar Abed Al Jabar scored taking the match into overtime.

The two teams gave it all they had in the overtime with Al Ahli concentrating more on defence.

Al Salt thus conceded the title back to Al Ahli who won 34-32.

PSG too strong for Lens

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint Germain proved too strong for Lens in the French Cup final on Saturday as goals in either half from Brazilian skipper Rai and Marco Simone saw off the league leaders in a 2-1 win.

Vladimir Smicer's 83rd-minute reply set up a barnstorming finish, with Smicer going close again only to be foiled by a fine block from point blank range by PSG keeper Vincent Fernandez.

It was a cruel blow to Lens, who are on the verge of glory in the league which they can wrap up next week, but who had been set to claim an historic double after never having previously won any major honours in their 92-year history.

In the event, after a bright start at the Stade de France, where Fernandez saved PSG's skins with brilliant stops from Michael Debeve on 16 minutes and then the effervescent Smicer, Lens saw their dreams swim out of focus.

And it was trans-Atlantic globetrotter Rai who finally broke the deadlock in the 25th minute to set PSG on the way to their fifth triumph in the competition.

Rai had been expected to start on the bench having only arrived back in France on Friday having played in Brazil's home defeat by Argentina on Wednesday in Rio.

Florian Maurice, recently linked with Marseille, whipped over a looping cross from the right and Rai, who is returning to Sao Paulo at the end of the season, leaped like a salmon to flick a majestic header into the far corner.

That sparked the Parisians and they began to knock the ball around with increasing confidence.

Lens did try manfully to force their way back and Didier Domi was booked for climbing all over the dangerous Smicer, who then headed well over.

Marc Vivien Fox, wanted by Manchester United, also snove to push his teammates forward but Lens appeared to have lost their self-belief.

After the break, it was PSG who were able to step up yet another gear and Simone skated through the left channel into the box on 53 minutes to drill home a killer second goal which visibly broke Lens' spirits.

Smicer pulled one back from close range in the 83rd minute and then ran into the brick wall of Fernandez with a final chance at the end of a mazy run down the right, but time was already running out on him and his teammates.

Paris Saint Germain thus gave outgoing Brazilian coach Ricardo a domestic cup double as they beat Bordeaux to lift the league cup.

And it was a fitting end to the reign of PSG's outgoing chief Michel Denisot, who hands the presidential reins to Charles Bierry, the current head of French satellite station Canal Plus, at the end of the season having won a league title, two French Cups, two League Cups and a European Cup Winners' Cup in his seven years in charge.

Graf withdraws from French Open, sees end of career approaching

HAMBURG (AP) — After pulling out of the upcoming three big tennis tournaments, Steffi Graf says she could be approaching the end of her illustrious career.

The former No. 1 in the world withdrew over the weekend from the Italian, German and French Opens, the three major events of the clay-court season, because of an ankle injury suffered in practice.

"I've come to the point where I can see clearly the end of my career because I have the feeling that I am not making any progress," Graf was quoted as saying in an interview with the German magazine Focus.

"I will prepare carefully for the next attempt. But if I can't establish any continuity in my practice or tournament schedule, I will give up," she was quoted as saying.

"I've had enough of turning in circles," Graf said.

The magazine, which comes out Monday, was made available to the media on Sunday.

Graf's latest medical problem is peritonitis, an inflammation of the membrane covering the bone in her right ankle.

"I've been going up and down constantly for the past two years," she said. "Every time I struggle to reach my old form after an injury, another injury throws me back into the role of a patient."

"I can't let my life be governed by therapies and treatments. There can't be any new injuries," Graf said.

Graf had been sidelined since March with a left hamstring injury suffered during a semifinal match against Lindsay Davenport at Indian Wells.

That was just Graf's second tournament in nine months. The German, who has dominated women's tennis over the past decade, has been attempting a comeback since undergoing reconstructive surgery on her left knee after last year's French Open.

Graf said her dream was to "play once more a good tournament in Wimbledon, eat a bowl of strawberries and then say adieu to tennis."

Graf has won 103 titles, 21 of them Grand Slams. She's won Wimbledon seven times, five times each the French and U.S. Opens, and four times the Australian Open.

The German held the No. 1 ranking for 377 weeks, longer than any other player.

In 1988, she completed a rare Grand Slam by winning titles at all four major tournaments and then made it a golden Slam by adding the Olympic gold medal in Seoul, South Korea.

Her last tournament victory was in May 1997 in Strasbourg, France.

Graf has slipped to No. 33 in the world rankings. The top spot is now held by Martina Hingis, the 17-year-old Swiss prodigy.

The latest blow to Graf's comeback hopes came in a week in which she had some rare good news — her father and former manager Peter was released from prison after serving part of his tax evasion sentence.

The German Tennis Federation is reportedly ready to offer Graf several job possibilities, including the post of Fed Cup chief. But Graf told Focus she may prefer to work with junior players.

Together with Boris Becker, Graf triggered a tennis boom in Germany in the past decade. Becker, now a part-time player, is the country's Davis Cup team chief.

Seattle advance in 5th game

SEATTLE (AFP) — The experience of Gary Payton and the Seattle SuperSonics was too much for the exuberance of Kevin Garnett, Stephon Marbury and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Again pushed to a decisive fifth game in their National Basketball Association first-round series, the SuperSonics overcame an early 12-point deficit and blew past the Timberwolves 97-84 to reach the Western Conference semi-finals.

Payton scored 29 points, including 11 in the third quarter, when the Sonics took the lead for good. With his team again on the verge of early elimination, the All-Star guard showed leadership and poise that the young Timberwolves could not match.

Garnett and Marbury scored just seven points apiece. Appearing emotionally drained, Garnett was held scoreless in the second half and committed 10 turnovers overall. Marbury again could not solve the defence of Hersey Hawkins, shooting just 2-of-10 from the field.

Hawkins scored 24 points, including his own three-point barrage to open the second half and give Seattle control. He added nine points in the fourth quarter, when the Sonics made all 12 of their free throws and finally put away the pesky Timberwolves.



Seattle SuperSonics Detlef Schremp (R) looks to call time as he tries to retain possession of a loose ball while Minnesota Timberwolves Kevin Garnett (L) tries to take away the ball, during their NBA playoff game at the Key Arena. The Sonics' 97-84 win over the Timberwolves in the best-of-five series clinches their berth for a second round playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers (Reuters photo)

In the next round, the Sonics will face the Los Angeles Lakers, a best-of-seven series that starts on Monday.

The Chicago Bulls launch the second round on Sunday, when they open their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semi-final series against Charlotte.

Charlotte advanced to the conference semi-finals for the first time in five years on Friday with a 3-1 series victory over Atlanta.

The Bulls, seeking their sixth title in eight years and perhaps the last of superstar Michael Jordan's career, were the only team to sweep their first round series 3-0 — against the New Jersey Nets.

Two first-round series will also be completed on Sunday, one in the East and one in the West.

The Utah Jazz, trying to get back to the NBA Finals for the second year in a row, host the Houston Rockets in Salt Lake City.

The Jazz, the top seeds in the Western Conference, clawed their way back to 2-2 with a win in Houston on Friday.

As well as home court advantage, the Jazz will benefit from the absence of Houston star forward Charles Barkley, who suffered a torn triceps muscle in the Game Four defeat.

Before the injury, Barkley scored eight points in nine minutes, helping the Rockets to a 28-18 lead. But Houston was a different team without him, managing just 43 points as it tied the worst offensive playoff performance in franchise history.

The Miami Heat and New

York Knicks square off in Miami, both teams stung by suspensions in the wake of the silly slug-fest that broke out at the end of Game Four in New York on Thursday.

Miami center Alonzo Mourning and New York forward Larry Johnson were both hauled for two games after swinging — ineffectually — at each other with just 1.4 seconds left in Thursday's game.

New York will also be without forward Chris Mills, who was suspended one game for coming off the bench during the incident.

The debacle is almost a carbon copy of last year's postseason meeting between these teams, when a bench-clearing brawl in Game Five of their Eastern Conference semifinals series led to multiple suspensions for the Knicks.

SCOREBOARD

Sampras to face Stoltenberg in AT&T Challenge final

DULUTH, Georgia (AP) — Top seed Pete Sampras cruised into the final of the \$315,000 AT and T Challenge with a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 victory over Alex Calatrava of Spain.

The World's No. 1 player, seeking just his third career title on clay, will meet second seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia in Sunday's championship match.

Stoltenberg, a finalist here last year, was a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Romania's Andrei Pavel on Saturday. Sampras' solid and aggressive play Saturday contrasted sharply with his matches earlier this week, when he struggled to find rhythm on his serves and groundstrokes in cold, damp conditions.

On a court finally dried after days of rain and clouds, however, the first set played like a serving duel. The lanky Calatrava, who battled through three qualifying matches and three in the main draw, served seven aces while Sampras countered with eight.

After neither player dropped serve, Sampras roared to a 4-0 lead in the tiebreaker. Calatrava battled to 5-all and then saved a set point at 5-6 when Sampras' backhand flew deep. The Spaniard's miss on an easy forehand on the next point, however, gave Sampras another set point at 7-6 and he won the set with a serve-and-volley point.

The second set featured more baseline rallies. Sampras, looking ever more confident, played more consistently to force Calatrava into mistakes. Sampras broke the Spaniard in the fourth game to go up 3-1 and nearly broke serve again for the

match at 5-2. Stoltenberg, a top 100 player for eight of his 13 years on tour, came up with more solutions than Pavel to strong, swirling wind.

Playing calmly while trying to get to the net as often as possible, Stoltenberg broke the 24-year-old Pavel to take a 4-2 lead in the first set, then broke again in the eighth game to take the set. Stoltenberg broke in the fourth game of the second set to lead 3-1 and was serving for the match at 5-3. Pavel broke serve, only to lose his own in the next game.

Stoltenberg, a top 100 player for eight of his 13 years on tour, came up with more solutions than Pavel to strong, swirling wind.

Playing calmly while trying to get to the net as often as possible, Stoltenberg broke the 24-year-old Pavel to take a 4-2 lead in the first set, then broke again in the eighth game to take the set. Stoltenberg broke in the fourth game of the second set to lead 3-1 and was serving for the match at 5-3. Pavel broke serve, only to lose his own in the next game.

Stoltenberg broke in the fourth game of the second set to lead 3-1 and was serving for the match at 5-3. Pavel broke serve, only to lose his own in the next game.

ATTN: ACTUAL USERS/IMPORTERS/INDENTERS

We are in a position to supply Vinyl Acetate Monomer and other Solvents on regular basis in drums.

Interested parties please contact Mr. Hussain Tahir, Tel. No. 9714-347666, Fax No. 9714-345726, Mobile: 97150-6510715 or Mr. Issa Aref, Tel./Fax: 5333607, Mobile: 962-7964048.

FOR RENT IN AL-RABIA

Furnished or Unfurnished or Semi-furnished Apartment

1) Luxury complete 1st floor, 400 sq.m.

2) Ground floor, 3 bedrooms.

Telephone 5510107

Furnished Flat For Rent

Consists of 2 bedrooms, sitting, living and dining rooms, with separate heating and telephone. Located in a building of 3 flats only, each in one floor, near Medina Street. Please call 5346162.

N.B. A Furnished Villa at the 7th Circle is also available for rent.

A big Saudi company has VACANCIES for

A. Senior Electrical Engineer — 2 Nos.

Experience: Min. 5 years as a Project Manager with good knowledge in technical matters related to execution of job listed below:

(A) High Voltage Underground Power Cable

Range: 66 kv up to 132 kv

or

(B) Overhead Transmission Line

Range: 110 kv upto 380 kv

B. Senior Electro/Mechanical Engineer — 2 Nos

Experience: Min. 5 years as Project Manager for huge pumping station, with good knowledge in project management and maintenance of similar projects.

* All candidates should have good command over English language and should mention their contact No. in their CVs.

* All candidates should send their CVs either to

Fax No. 5532324 - Amman

Attn. Mr. Marwan

or

Fax No. 966(1)4028213 - Riyadh

Attn. Mr. Omar

FOR RENT/SHMEISANI

Duplex (unfurnished) Semi-villa within building

2 floors. Consists of 3 master bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 1 kitchen/1 kitchenette, fireplace, large salons and terraces with grill stand, housekeeper room, private entrance/garage, elevator & telephone line.

Interested please call 5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

5605838

Gore, Mubarak appeal for success at London meetings

CAIRO (AFP) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak appealed on Sunday for the success of U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in London.

"We in the United States believe very strongly that a successful conclusion to talks in London tomorrow... will be very much in the best interest of Israel, the Palestinians and the region as a whole," Mr. Gore told reporters.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is scheduled to meet separately in London on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Gore, speaking after talks with Mr. Mubarak, stressed that successful London talks "would provide a wonderful springboard to see renewed progress" on the Syrian-Lebanon peace track with Israel which has been stuck since 1996.

And he agreed with Mr. Mubarak that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators should seize this "strategic, extraordinary opportunity" or face the consequences.

"The stage is set for progress in these discussions that would have significant leverage over the future of the entire region," Mr. Gore said at a joint press conference with the Egyptian leader.

Mr. Mubarak expressed "fear" that failure by Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat to

accept a U.S. compromise solution aimed at ending 15 months of stalemate "will lead to much more complications in the future."

Mr. Arafat, who arrived in Cairo on Sunday for last minute consultations with Mr. Mubarak before heading for London, has accepted the U.S. proposal calling on Israel to withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank, but it has been rejected by Mr. Netanyahu, who wants only a nine per cent pullout.

"We'll wait for the Palestinians to say their word because they have to decide, they have to accept or to refuse what is being proposed for them," Mr. Mubarak said before going into talks with the Palestinian leader.

Mr. Mubarak stressed that if the U.S. offer were accepted it should be followed by quick steps to ensure long-term success.

"We hope that the London meeting will be a success because we fear what may follow after that," said Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Gore meanwhile also strongly defended his stop in Israel, where he attended 50th anniversary celebrations of the Jewish state before coming here, saying it was not inconsistent with U.S. relations with the Arab countries.

"There is absolutely no inconsistency at all in feeling an historic friendship for Israel and feeling passionately that it is in the best interest of Israel and of our other friends in the

region to have a successful conclusion in this peace process," Mr. Gore said.

The U.S. vice president also announced that Cairo and Washington had started talks on a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to boost ties as part of a 1994 partnership to bolster economic growth and development in Egypt.

Egyptian and U.S. officials also signed four bilateral accords to strengthen legal and environmental cooperation, support small businesses and education, officials said.

Egypt is the second-largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel and gets \$2.1 billion annually from Washington including \$815 million in civilian assistance and the rest in military aid.

Egypt would like to increase the volume of its exports to the United States and attract more U.S. investment.

Egypt has attracted \$2 billion in direct, non-oil investment from the United States and would like to increase that by an additional \$1 billion, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri told the government press this week.

Egypt exported goods worth \$700 million to the United States — its first trade partner — last year and would like to raise that to \$1 billion by the year 2000, Mr. Ganzouri said.

Mr. Gore returns home late Sunday at the end of a tour which also took him to Saudi Arabia and the West Bank.



FIGHTING IN KOSOVO: An ethnic Albanian woman feeds Sunday her two-month-old niece Erblina whose young parents were killed, along with another woman, when a Serbian mortar bomb slammed into the courtyard of their family compound on Saturday while other relatives mourn. Fighting flared in the Drenica region of Kosovo on Saturday and Sunday (Reuters photo)

British hostages freed in Yemen, headed for Sanaa

SANAA (AFP) — A British Council teacher and his family held hostage by Yemeni tribesmen since Apr. 16 were released on Sunday and headed for Sanaa, police sources said.

They said David Mitchell, his wife Carolyn and their 14-year-old son Ben were freed in the Dhamar region southeast of the Yemeni capital after a pledge that their demands would be met.

The pledge was delivered by Sheikh Neji Al

Ruwishan, a tribal leader and prominent businessman sent by the government to mediate. He was escorting the hostages back to Sanaa.

The British embassy had no immediate confirmation of the release. "We have no news that we can confirm at the moment," David Pearce, the deputy head of mission, told AFP.

The Mitchells were seized in an ambush on the road from the southern city of Aden to Sanaa, as they drove to the capital's airport

for the wife and son to return to Britain after the Easter holidays.

Mr. Mitchell, a 48-year-old head teacher at the British Council in Aden, and his family were taken to the remote mountain village of Quradhi, close to Dhamar, some 160 km from Sanaa.

The area was riddled by security forces.

Yemeni authorities refrained from using force to avoid endangering the hostages' lives, while the British government said it

wanted the family released through peaceful means.

The kidnapers from the Beni Dabiyan tribe, through tribal mediators, have reportedly been demanding government aid such as roads, schools and electricity for their region.

More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since 1993 by Yemeni tribesmen. The hostages have been used as bargaining chips in disputes with the authorities, but treated as guests and released unharmed.

Algerian forces kill 23 rebels — paper

PARIS (R) — Algerian troops have killed 23 members of a rebel bomb squad known as Atafaj (blowing up) in a raid south of Algiers, an Algerian newspaper reported on Sunday.

The French-language daily La Nouvelle République said troops tipped off by a rival Muslim group stormed the guerrillas' makeshift bomb-making workshop in the Bougara area in Blida province, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

The troops killed all 23 men in the workshop and recovered five Kalashnikov assault rifles, 10 shot-guns and two bombs, the newspaper said.

It said the rebels were members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most radical guerrilla faction. It did

not say which rival faction tipped off the troops.

GIA leader Hassan Hattab said in pamphlets pasted on walls in the streets of Algiers on Saturday that his followers would step up attacks on government forces and on members of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), armed wing of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The GIA dismisses the AIS as a renegade group, saying it sold out on the Islamic cause when it declared a unilateral ceasefire last October.

Bombs and booby-trapped cars have killed thousands of people in the violence pitting Muslim guerrillas against government forces in the past six years.

Two women and a six-year-old child were killed by a

bomb on Friday south of Algiers as they were praying at the tomb of a recently assassinated relative.

Meanwhile, La Tribune newspaper said the deputy leader of the FIS, Ali Belhadj, had reportedly written a letter to rebels urging them to lay down weapons.

Belhadj is detained at a secret location after being sentenced in 1992 by a military court to 12 years imprisonment for undermining state security.

"If the information over Belhadj's letter telling rebels to end violence proves true, it would be the first time since the beginning of the violence that Belhadj had made such a call to end the killings," said La Tribune.

The report could not immediately be confirmed.

Holbrooke holds shuttle talks on Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke held shuttle talks with Cypriot leaders Sunday on the second day of his mission aimed at ending the division of the island, with sources saying tough bargaining was continuing.

Before Sunday's first round of talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, Mr. Holbrooke declined to comment on the results of his previous day's meetings.

"I don't know, we will see,"

U.S. President Bill Clinton's Cyprus emissary told reporters. "Silence is golden," Mr. Denktash added.

Following the one-hour meeting in Nicosia's Turkish-held sector, Mr. Holbrooke left for the Greek-Cypriot-controlled part of the capital for 30 minutes of talks with Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides.

The U.S. envoy said he would meet Mr. Clerides again during the afternoon before crossing the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone

dividing the island for a second round of discussions with Mr. Denktash. Diplomatic sources said Mr. Holbrooke was working hard to resolve the most

toughly dispute, the Turkish-Cypriots' representation in proposed future reunification talks.

Mr. Denktash accused the Greek-Cypriots of intransigence on the issue of Turkish-Cypriot representation and suggested Mr. Holbrooke may end his mediation on Monday if there is no progress.

Khartoum team set for Sudan peace negotiations in Nairobi

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Negotiators from Sudan's Islamist junta were flying from Khartoum to Nairobi on Sunday for talks with southern rebels, though a top official has warned people not to "expect too much."

Sudanese President Omar El Bashir's security and defence council decided on Saturday night that its team for the session starting in Kenya on Monday would be led by Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, the information ministry announced.

Mr. Ismail will be accompanied by some 15 pro-Khartoum officials from both north and south Sudan, instructed to "go straight into discussion of issues on the agenda for reaching genuine solutions," a statement said.

Last month, however, the deputy secretary general of the national congress formed by the junta, Ali Al Hajj Mohammad, stressed that people "should not expect too much of this round of talks."

He said the scheduled three days were "too short to be able to discuss all the problems on the agenda." Key issues are self-government in the south and deep-rooted opposition to strict Islamic law throughout Sudan.

The status of the south is due eventually to go to a referendum, while Mr. Bashir's regime, which ousted elected politicians in 1989, on Friday began a nationwide poll on a draft new constitution, which is controversial because of its vague provisions for free political parties.

Purports of a multiparty system charge that the ambiguous text provides only for freedoms within a broad Islamic framework, but Islamists take the opposite view, saying the draft does not go far enough towards

Sudanese university chief proposes compensating Egypt for property

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The director of a Sudanese university on confiscated Egyptian educational property here said it was too hard to return the property and Cairo should be compensated instead.

"It is now legally and practically difficult to relinquish" the Two Niles University in Khartoum which Sudan set up on Cairo University's Khartoum campus, confiscated in 1993, Awad Hajj Ali said in remarks published Sunday in the official press.

Sudan invested over half-a-million dollars in a laboratory

enshrining an Islamist state. The junta had previously said Sudanese First Vice-President Osman Mohammad Taha would lead the talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting for 15 years in the mainly black south, where Christianity and traditional animist beliefs prevail.

The parley, under the auspices of the regional Inter-governmental Authority on Drought (IGAD), follows a round last November which was the first between Khartoum and Colonel John Garang's SPLA for three years.

Those talks broke off when the junta rejected a confederation proposal made by the SPLA.

The conflict has claimed at least one million lives, worsened famine in parts of Africa's largest country and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr. Bashir's peace advisor Adam Tahir Hemdoun said Khartoum's team would include

for the university after the confiscation and renamed the school Two Niles University. Mr. Ali told Al Anbaa newspaper.

In addition the country spent \$2.8 million maintaining the university buildings since the takeover, he said.

"All property and installations have been registered in the name of Al Nilein University (the Arabic name) and it has now become a legal institution," he said.

"Compensation is the legal and practical solution," he added.

five officials from the north and 10 from the south.

Mr. Ismail, Mr. Mohammad and Mr. Hemdoun are among the northerners, while southerners include former rebel leader Riek Machar, who has become assistant president and chairman of the South Sudanese Coordination Council, which gathers in other pro-Khartoum forces.

The junta is supported by the National Islamic Front (NIF), formally banned like other parties, while in 1996 the SPLA linked up with mainly exiled northern dissidents to a National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The SPLA has said their side in Nairobi will be led by a senior official, but not Garang.

Seven SPLA splinter-groups allied with Khartoum last year, but the southwest Bahr El Ghazal province force headed by Kerubino Kuanyen Bol redefected back to the SPLA in January, along with its government arms, and Mr. Kerubino led an attack on the town of Wau.

Albright remains pessimistic on eve of key Middle East talks

LONDON (AP) — A pessimistic U.S. secretary of state meets the Israeli and Palestinian leaders Monday for what are billed as make or break talks to try to revive the stalled Middle East peace process.

The talks "are decisive for the future of the peace process," the senior Palestinian representative in Britain, Afif Safieh, said Sunday. The negotiations are teetering between "the desirable breakthrough and the possible breakdown."

The United States has warned that it may abandon its mediation if the 14-month stalemate over Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank continues. And Palestinian President Yasser Arafat reiterated that he will declare statehood in May 1999, regardless of whether there is a deal with Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has already won

approval for an American initiative which calls for Israel to hand over 13 per cent of the West Bank. The phased Israeli withdrawal is to be linked to a Palestinian crackdown on Islamists.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to accept the proposal despite intensive U.S. diplomatic efforts, including an unscheduled meeting early Sunday with Vice President Al Gore.

"There will be some progress, but anybody who expects a dramatic breakthrough will be disappointed," top Netanyahu aide David Bar-Ilan said after the Gore meeting.

Israel has said it will hand over 9 per cent of the West Bank, and some reports have said that Mr. Netanyahu is willing to offer up to 11 per cent. But the Palestinians say 13 per cent is their absolute minimum.

"The success of the talks in London will

depend on Netanyahu's actions because the problem does not lie anywhere else," Mr. Arafat told journalists in Gaza before leaving for Britain.

"His policy is to try to gain time," the Palestinian leader told London's Sunday Observer.

Mr. Netanyahu is "a pyromaniac on a powder keg," the Palestinian diplomat Mr. Safieh told Sky Television. "And I believe the Americans are seeing him increasingly, not as a strategic asset in the Middle East, but as a strategic liability."

He complained that Mr. Netanyahu's vision of a future Palestine was of tiny enclaves, isolated from each other, "that are totally unviable and totally humiliated and have no ingredients for the economic take-off."

As Ms. Albright headed for London

Saturday, State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said there is "no reason to believe we are in a position to bridge the gaps." And he warned that there would be "grave dangers" if the stalemate continues.

Ms. Albright was scheduled to dine with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Sunday night. Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to meet with Mr. Netanyahu and then Mr. Arafat Monday morning before they hold separate talks with Ms. Albright.

Mr. Safieh said if there is a possibility of a breakthrough, the Palestinian and Israeli leaders might meet together with Ms. Albright — or "even more interestingly" with a European representative as well. That presumably would be Mr. Cook or Mr. Blair since Britain currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

The London meeting will take place

exactly one year before the May 4, 1999 deadline for the completion of Middle East peace negotiations set in the 1993 Oslo peace accords.

All sides know the peace process cannot drift indefinitely.

Mr. Arafat reiterated to The Sunday Times that next May he will announce the independence of Palestine.

"My decision is final," he was quoted as saying.

Added Palestinian envoy Mr. Safieh: "I believe Palestinian statehood is not only our right but I also believe it's a Jewish responsibility."

Mr. Netanyahu has hinted he would retaliate by annexing some of the West Bank. And with both sides freed of restraints imposed by the peace accords, many fear renewed violence.



Thurman and Hawke get married.

NEW YORK (AP) — Prospective parents Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke got married in a cathedral decorated with lilacs, cherry blossoms and candles lining the bride's walk-up the aisle, the New York Post reported.

Invited guests included Richard Gere and other celebrities, the newspaper said. Thurman, who's pregnant, wore a plus-size Vera Wang wedding gown. A chapel used for the reception afterward was decorated like the set of "Casablanca," according to an unidentified church worker quoted by the Post.

It's the second marriage for Thurman, 28. Her ex-husband is fellow actor Gary Oldman, whom she married in 1990. It's the first marriage for Hawke, 27. The couple co-starred in "Gattaca."

Ginger Spice to appear in Penthouse

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Glamour magazine's Penthouse is dishing up Geri Halliwell — alias Ginger Spice of the Spice Girls — for its June issue, using photos taken years before she became an international pop phenomenon. In "The Geri Story" accompanying the photos, Penthouse notes that Halliwell made her start in showbiz by working as a club dancer in Spain and a "glamour" model. "For all her boasts about her potency being due to her brain, Geri's most noticeable natural endowments are strictly below her neck," the glossy men's magazine sniggers. She "appears to have been cloned in some sort of mad scientific experiment" to produce a scaled-down version of Madonna's voice fused to Jayne Mansfield-size boobs.

Streisand's new movie draws unfriendly fire from Heston

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barbara Streisand's movie about a widow's campaign against handgun violence drew unfriendly fire from staunch pro-gun activist and actor Charlton Heston. Streisand countered by saying Heston hasn't even seen it. The film, called "The Long Island Incident," tells the story of Carolyn McCarthy, who lobbied for gun control and became a congresswoman after her husband was killed and her son was seriously wounded by a gunman who opened fire on a crowded New York commuter train in December 1993. Six people were killed. Heston, a National Rifle Association vice president, scheduled a news conference for Monday to challenge the film's alleged deliberate misrepresentation of the group and elected officials who support it.

Posh Spice will feature geese in wedding

LONDON (AP) — Not surprisingly, Posh Spice Victoria Adams is planning a posh wedding — and she thinks geese wandering around the garden are a perfect touch. The singer — the first of the five "Spice Girls" to become engaged — told British Channel 4 that when she marries soccer star David Beckham she wants "all the fancy stuff, the things you see in films." And how did geese fit in? Well, the wedding coordinator designing the couple's big day suggested geese, and she liked the idea. "I don't know — they just look good, don't they?" she asked. The couple became engaged in January but don't plan to marry until next year, because of work commitments.

King calls King Fahd, M

MANAMA (AP) — The Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz called Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz on Monday to discuss the latest developments in the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian and Israeli leaders. King Fahd said he was pleased with the progress made in the peace process and hoped for a successful conclusion to the talks in London.

Volume 23 Number 6830

Mideast Albright

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is scheduled to meet separately in London on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Albright is expected to discuss the progress of the peace process and the need for a breakthrough in the negotiations.